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THE INDEPENDENT

No 3,681

WEDNESDAY 5 AUGUST 1998

(1R50p) 45p

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No place to hide, pension firms warned

THE GOVERNMENT yesterday launched a fresh initiative to deal with the multi-billion pound pensions mis-selling scandal, as it appeared that detectives are poised to broaden investigations into possible criminal offences.

Officers from the Metropolitan Police Company Fraud Squad are already investigating three major life insurance companies and *The Independent* understands they are now set to make inquiries into two more well known firms.

At the same time, the Treasury's new economic secretary Patricia Hewitt, said there would be "no hiding place" for those involved and stressed that individuals up to director level would be held responsible as well as the firms themselves. She said: "This is a responsibility that goes all the way up to the boardroom."

Two million people may be affected by pension mis-selling - the practice of wrongly advising people to take out personal pensions plans when not in their best interest. Between £16bn-£22bn in compensation may be at stake.

Yesterday Ms Hewitt criticised pension advisers for failing to deal with priority cases. "Tremendous progress has been made, and a few firms now appear to have met their targets for resolving priority cases," she said.

"But work remains to be done in honouring offers of redress and in meeting the challenges of the second phase of the pensions review. I intend to maintain pressure on all firms and will continue to publish monthly statistics."

Speaking on a visit to the Financial Services Authority in the City of London, she added: "I am deeply concerned at the gap that exists between the best and the rest. A few - particularly some firms of IFAs - have scarcely started."

"Firms big and small will not

BY ANDREW VERITY AND ANDREW BUNCOMBE

be allowed to bury their heads in the sand."

The Independent reported yesterday that Scotland Yard's company fraud squad was investigating three major insurance companies - Legal and General, Guardian Royal Exchange and Sun Life of Canada - for allegedly breaching the Financial Services Act of 1986. Under section 47 of the Act, anyone who recklessly or dishonestly makes a misleading statement to help the sale of a

and his wife had worked for over years, destroyed almost overnight.

"It was devastating. I don't mind telling you that I wept. I wept several times," he said yesterday. "I can't lose anymore. Now I have to be positive and try and put those sorts of emotions to the back of my mind. I know of at least another 100 cases individually and I understand that there are up to 1,500 other people who face losing everything they have as a result of what has been going on."

Two of the three insurance companies being investigated by the police have denied knowledge of the inquiry. The third, Sun Life of Canada, said one of its representatives had been questioned by police but not about mis-selling.

The Independent understands the police inquiry, headed by a detective inspector, is about to be broadened and that two other companies - both household names - will be investigated. Yesterday both companies said they were not aware of any investigations.

A police spokeswoman said yesterday: "The inquiry was launched 18 months ago but I will not speculate as to how long it will take to complete. When the investigation is complete a file will be presented to the Crown Prosecution Service for a decision about whether a prosecution will go ahead."

Personal pensions are a huge business. The Association of British Insurers said yesterday that in 1997 a total of £6.7bn was spent on new personal pension policies - an increase of 23 per cent on the previous year.

Spokesman Malcolm Talling said: "There has been a problem but we think the problems are now in the past. We are satisfied that measures have been taken to deal with mis-selling."

Mike Moyses, 51, from Taunton, Somerset, said he had watched everything he

INSIDE



I lost my cash, my business and my dreams Page 3

Torment of Kosovo as Nato dithers



An ethnic Albanian boy nibbles a bread morsel on a tractor as the family flees advancing Serbs in Lausa, near Cirez. Atilla Kisbenedek

THE WESTERN allies were in disarray over Kosovo last night as Serbian troops advanced on the Kosovo Liberation Army and thousands more ethnic Albanians were forced to flee their homes to escape the violence and shelling.

The Serbs kept up their violent onslaught on towns and villages in central Kosovo, ignoring pleas from the European Union and the US for a ceasefire, and warnings from aid agencies of an impending humanitarian disaster. Thousands of civilian refugees were

BY KATHERINE BUTLER

reported to be hiding out in woods near Malisevo, a former stronghold of the KLA.

But sharp political divisions over a military response were also exposed as Nato officials in Brussels contradicted a claim from US state department spokesman James Rubin that contingency plans for armed intervention had been approved. "There has been no approval. There is a plan but it is still being refined and only when that has been done will there be approval."

Even then force remains only an option, officials at Nato headquarters in Brussels said.

At the end of May Nato foreign ministers ordered military chiefs to start planning for armed intervention in Kosovo but while the logistical preparations for all the possible options, including air strikes and deployment of ground troops, are advanced, diplomats concede that it has proved impossible to nail down political agreement.

"There is no agreement within the political community either about what is really

going on in Kosovo, or what to do," said one senior source.

Pressure from European members of the transatlantic alliance for force to be put on hold as an option has grown since May. Some governments - particularly Germany - believe even limited armed intervention could be disastrously counterproductive.

But the Americans are in favour, and believe it could be done without authorisation from the UN security council, where a Russian veto has been expected.

The KLA's guerrilla cam-

paign against the Serbs has also complicated the picture on the ground. "We have got to be realistic," said one diplomatic source. "It is not as easy as saying let's go in there and sort out these cowboys and we'll shoot the guys in the black hats. Who do you shoot, what do you do, and will any of this help?"

"There are no clear borders, and what do you do to avoid civilian casualties? None of these questions have been resolved."

Thousands flee, page 11

Paddy Ashdown, Review, page 5

Murdoch ready to cash in on football superleague

RUPERT MURDOCH is planning to exploit the multi-billion pound bid to lure England's top clubs into a European football superleague.

He has joined forces with Silvio Berlusconi, the former Italian Prime Minister and media mogul, a Saudi Arabian prince and a German television magnate to set up a pan-European digital television network which could carry the games on pay-per-view television.

Fininvest, the holding company for Mr Berlusconi's media interests, has confirmed that its subsidiary, Mediaset, is in talks with Mr Murdoch's News Corp

BY STEVE BOGGAN AND PAUL MCCANN

and the German Kirch Group aimed at setting up a new Europe-wide television company.

Secrecy continued to surround plans for a superleague - given the codename Operation Gandalf by those involved. But it appears that assurances given by Arsenal, Manchester United and Liverpool over the future of their European football may be overtaken by events.

Mr Berlusconi's new ties with News Corp provide a firm link between Mr Murdoch and

the football deal. The company masterminding the proposed breakaway, Media Partners International, is run by Rodolfo Hecht, a former chairman of Fininvest.

The first plank in a Europe-wide media alliance was laid yesterday when Mr Berlusconi sold a one-third stake in a German sports channel to the German media entrepreneur Leo Kirch.

The \$102m (£62m) sale is the first stage in a complex series of manoeuvres, which is expected to lead to the creation of an alliance between Mr Kirch, Mr Berlusconi, Mr Mur-

doch and the Saudi Arabian billionaire, Prince Al Waleed Bin Talal.

Prince Al Waleed is the owner of a number of television interests, including a family entertainment channel with the singer Michael Jackson. He is also a major shareholder in Euro Disney and owner of the Four Seasons hotel chain.

The next stage of the deal is likely to be the sale of 20 per cent of the Kirch media empire to Mr Murdoch, Mr Berlusconi and Prince Al Waleed for \$2bn (£1.2bn). That will include Premiere and DF-1, pay-per-view channels that could be used to

broadcast superleague football.

"If Canal Plus [a European cable channel] get on board, then you have the means by which to launch a pan-European operation," said one City media analyst yesterday.

"A breakaway superleague would provide the kind of platform it would need to attract viewers in huge numbers."

Mark Booth, the chief executive at BSkyB, last week told City analysts that the company was not involved in any "imminent" deals in Europe, but was "opportunistic and always interested in future expansion."

Traffic of secrets, page 6

The world's oldest building discovered

ARCHAEOLOGISTS have identified the oldest tomb in Western Europe, pushing back the history of architecture by almost 1,000 years.

The discovery, revealed yesterday by Swedish archaeologists at Carrowmore, Co Sligo in Ireland, is being met with a mixture of excitement, astonishment and scepticism by pre-historians.

Carbon dating tests carried out on samples from the site suggest that Stone Age hunter-gatherers were building small roofed stone tombs surrounded by stone circles 7,400 years ago. This is at least 700 years earlier than what had previously been thought the earliest

BY DAVID KEYS
Archaeology Correspondent

free-standing stone architecture in Western Europe - a Neolithic tomb at Bougon near Poitiers in France.

The oldest generally accepted Western European stone architecture was thought to have been only around 6,300 years old.

The excavation and other archaeological work at Carrowmore, directed by Doctor Goran Burenhult of the University of Stockholm, is exciting scientists not just because of its age but also the economic and cultural environment in which it was apparently built. The

tomb and stone circles would have been built by early Irish populations hundreds of years before agriculture reached either mainland Britain or Ireland.

Archaeologists refer to this pre-agricultural (pre-Neolithic) era as the Mesolithic (Middle Stone Age) and no free-standing stone architecture from that period has ever been discovered in Western Europe.

The newly dated Irish tomb is small, but was probably the model for hundreds of later stone tombs that litter the Irish and British countryside, including Stonehenge. It contained 30 kilos of burnt bones from up to 50 individuals.

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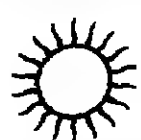
Rangers have signed Colin Hendry, from Blackburn for a fee close to £4m

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Very dry, very hot and very PIMM'S all day.



I lost my cash, my business, and my dreams when I was sold a dud policy

MICHAEL MOYSE is a victim of Britain's biggest ever financial scandal - the pension mis-selling debacle involving more than £15bn.

Mr. Moyse, an entrepreneur with interests in the leisure industry, was once on the brink of making millions: now he is forced to live off state benefit.

"Everything we had worked towards was lost. I was devastated, totally devastated," he said. "Now my wife and myself are forced to live off £100 a week and we risk losing everything."

Mr. Moyse, 51, is one of three people who have formally complained to the police that they had been mis-sold pensions by certain companies. He says he is in touch with another hundred similar cases though there may be 2 million cases in all. The police have told him that the three investigations could in reality become test cases.

Mr. Moyse, a former property developer from Taunton, Somerset, and his wife Corinne, spent more than five years developing a plan to develop a new kind of leisure project. Their dream was to establish a covered leisure facility that would have housed indoor tennis, bowls, golf and a retail area. There are many such "umbrella leisure" facilities on the Continent but in 1990 when the couple's plan was finalised, it would have been the only one in Britain.

"We had done everything. We had gone through a very difficult planning inquiry, we had found financial backers, we had thought of everything," said Mr. Moyse.

Mr. Moyse's allegation - and the basis of his criminal complaint to the police as well as a civil action he is currently pursuing - is that Guardian Royal Exchange mis-sold him pensions as part of wider deal to provide loans to finance the project. He alleges the loan was never forthcoming. In his civil action against the company he is claiming "several million pounds".

"Who knows how much money we might have made if

BY ANDREW BUNCOMBE
AND ANDREW VERITY

the project had worked," he said. "Instead we lost everything. We lost the site, we lost the pensions we thought we had arranged and we also face losing our home."

"If I was to take a job, I would now have to earn more than £45,000 a month to pay back what I owe in debts. What sort of job am I going to get that pays that. As a result, we are living off benefit. It makes you feel completely impotent."

He said he was adamant to fight his action, despite the re-



Terry Golding: "I intend to carry on fighting"

peated refusal of Treasury officials and regulators to carry out a criminal investigation.

He said: "The thing is that if you sit down and lie back you will just feel sorry for yourself. With me it is the opposite."

Another alleged victim of the mis-selling debacle is Terry Golding, who also once looked forward to a wealthy future.

In the late 1980s, he was engaged in setting up his own business park in Hampshire. By 1989, he had succeeded in letting all the space to blue-chip companies that he could rely on to pay the rent in the toughest circumstances.

As his prospects looked up, Mr. Golding moved with his family - wife Penny and children Jonathan, Simon, Nicholas and Sarah-Jane - to

a Queen Anne manor house in the Oxfordshire countryside.

Mr. Golding was advised by friends that to make the big step, from comfortably off to wealthy, he would need expert advice. Over many years, he dealt closely with representatives of Sun Life of Canada and ploughed thousands of pounds a year into pension and other policies. At one point he paid £55,000 a year in premiums.

Some details of Mr. Golding's story cannot be published because they form part of the police inquiry. But what can be said is that Mr. Golding and his family were forced out of their home four days before Christmas 1994. They were forced to stay with friends until much cheaper rented accommodation could be found.

Mr. Golding, no longer comfortably off, now lives in straitened circumstances in rented housing near Reading, Berkshire. He no longer has a mortgage - but pensions and mortgages are a constant pre-occupation.

He says: "I intend to carry on fighting for justice, not only for myself but for thousands of other people out there that don't have a voice."

Michael Jacobs and his wife Denise, of Beaconsfield, Buckinghamshire, the third couple whose allegation is being investigated by the Metropolitan Police, claim they have also lost "a great deal of money".

The couple say they could have made millions of pounds had they managed to retain the patent for their invention of micro-video and television screens to operate in the back of airline seats and in the passenger area of taxi cabs. They say that because of the money they lost after being sold the wrong pension by Legal and General, they were unable to renew the patent and instead it was snapped up by other entrepreneurs. They too have faced losing everything.

"It is sad, very sad indeed," said Mrs. Jacobs. "It hurts more than you can say."



Michael Moyse: "If I was to take a job, I would have to earn £45,000 a month to pay back what I owe" Tom Pilston

TIMETABLE OF A SCANDAL

1987: Personal pensions go on sale for first time.

1988-90: Government sanctions advertising campaign to encourage people to leave employers' schemes and take out personal pensions. It also sanctions the spending of billions of pounds in taxpayers' money as an inducement.

1988-93: Nearly 6 million people buy personal pensions. Four million-plus are legitimate sales which benefit customers. But 2 million leave employers' schemes, foregoing employer contributions worth up to 10 per cent of their salary.

1993: KPMG report suggests the majority of personal pensions bought by employees may have been mis-sold.

October 1994: The Securities and Investments Board reports that more than 600,000 victims may exist. Compensation is up to £5bn.

1995: SIB takes six months to issue guidance on how to review potential mis-selling cases. Insurers persuade a judge to order that letters to potential victims are watered down.

1996: Insurers insist they are making progress in review ahead of 31 December deadline. 1997: Leaked memo shows less than 10 per cent of cases have been reviewed. Regulators begin publicly naming companies.

June 1997: Helen Liddell, Treasury minister, reprimands insurance directors.

October 1997: Prudential reprimanded by the SIB.

March 1998: Most insurers meet deadline for setting 90 per cent of urgent cases. Many more remain.

Spring 1998: Estimates for the cost of the review soar to £15bn. Helen Liddell launches phase two of the review involving 1.5 million non-urgent cases.

Summer 1998: The Pru sets aside £1.1bn for compensation; L&G over £600m. News leaks that the Met's Fraud Squad is investigating Legal & General, GRE and Sun Life of Canada.

Two million victims of biggest cash scandal

MORE than two million people in the UK have been caught up in the £15bn pension mis-selling debacle. But to date not a single criminal charge has been brought, because, say regulators, no one meant to mislead a customer, as far as they knew.

Mis-selling takes place when a life insurance or independent financial adviser's sales person sells an investment product which is not in the best interests of the customer to buy.

The mis-selling took place on a giant scale between 1987 and 1994. In 1987 the Thatcher government applied pressure to life insurance companies to sell personal pensions, and paid for a big TV campaign to encourage people to leave employers' schemes in favour of the new investment vehicle.

Employees with reservations about their pension money were particularly well-targeted. Miners, nurses, teachers and local government officers were among the biggest customers.

The sales people were given an easy sale. As well as leaving

BY ANDREW VERITY

the employer's scheme, customers could use the personal pension to replace state earnings related pensions, picking up annual incentives worth one or two percent of their salaries just for doing so.

It seemed a win-win: the customer was getting extra savings from the government and a pension to call their own.

Sales people did not always explain two crucial drawbacks. In almost all cases employer's contributions were only payable if employees were in the employer's pension scheme. When employees left, a contribution worth up to 14 per cent of salary was forfeited.

The second was the sales person's real motivation. By persuading a customer to save £100 a month into a personal pension, a sales person could pick up a commission of around £1,500 - taken out of the customer's savings.

The small print would set out an initial charge of 5 per cent. But that was five per cent of all contributions for 25 years. The

money was taken out upfront, so most of the first two years' contributions were spent paying a salesman for his kindness.

While many were well-advised to buy personal pensions, two million were persuaded to take them up despite having a better opportunity to be in an employer's scheme.

Some maverick voices warned no good would come of it, but were ignored.

It was not until late 1993 that accountants and actuarial consultants KPMG produced an explosive report which suggested that the majority of employees who ignored their employer's scheme in favour of a personal pension had got a raw deal.

Public pressure persuaded Sir Andrew Large, chairman of the Securities and Investments Board, to press ahead with further studies. A year later, KPMG came back with an official study on behalf of the SIB. It found over 90 per cent of the pensions in question were likely to have been mis-sold.

If KPMG was right, up to £5bn was at stake - and more than half a million people had

lost an average of £8,000 each. Many would never know: they had already died. Others had retired or transferred their money to another pension.

SIB ordered companies to review all cases in question, and a review of 600,000 urgent cases was meant to be 90 per cent complete by the end of 1996. But it was dogged by delays. Professional indemnity insurers, such as LIBM, feared bankruptcy if they paid the giant claims and in 1995 they took the regulators to judicial review. Advisers, the judge ruled, could not be required to send out letters explicitly telling customers they may have suffered mis-selling.

In February 1997 *The Independent* published a leaked memo from the regulators showing that less than 10 per cent of urgent cases had been reviewed.

Since early 1997 dozens of companies have been fined a total of more than £10m because of failings connected to the review. The review's second tranche - of 1.5m less urgent cases - has got underway.

TEN PENSIONS-SELLING QUESTIONS TO ASK

Were you sold a personal pension between 29 April 1988 and 30 June 1994 or are you the spouse or dependent of someone who was sold a personal pension and has since died? You could have a claim for compensation if:

1. You were a member of your employer's occupational pension scheme which you left to buy a personal pension plan.
2. You were not specifically warned by the personal pension salesman or your financial adviser that if you left the occupational scheme you would no longer be entitled to a contribution from your employer.
3. You were not a member of a pension scheme and you were persuaded to buy a personal

pension plan although you could have joined your employer's scheme. If you qualify, check:

4. Has the firm or adviser which sold you the personal pension plan already contacted you? Did they send you a letter or a questionnaire asking for some basic information? If so did you reply? If not, it is important that you get in touch with them as quickly as you can. If you don't, you could lose your chance to have things put right.
5. If you are anxious or uncertain about what is happening, contact the firm and check.
6. You may be asked for details about your current pay and about your employment details, whether you are married, and the ap-

proximate dates when you joined and left your employer's pension scheme. They could ask for copies of documents such as payslips, booklets about your employer's scheme or statements showing what benefits you would have had.

6. When your review has been completed the firm will write and tell you whether it believes you were wrongly advised and if so whether you have suffered loss. If it believes you did not, and you are not happy with the decision you have the right to appeal.

7. If the firm decides you were wrongly advised and have suffered loss it may send an offer of redress telling you how it plans to put things right. It will also tell you what to do if you are not sure whether to accept.

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Australia	12p	49p	76%
France	11p	28p	61%
Germany	11p	28p	61%
Japan	17p	67p	75%
Chile	22p	£1.15	61%
New Zealand	16p	49p	68%
UK national	6p	8p	15%

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National Savings: 'millions missing'

UNTRAINED CIVIL servants doing their sums manually have left National Savings accounts with an unexplained "black hole" of more than £8 million.

A scathing report published today by the National Audit Office found that the state savings scheme beloved of pensioners and children was riddled with accounting errors that left it wide open to fraud on a grand scale.

The Commons Public Accounts Committee said the discrepancies were so serious that it would be calling National Savings chiefs to appear before it as soon as possible.

Sir John Bourne, head of the NAO, found that most of the

By PAUL WAUGH
Political Correspondent

Sir John found gross inaccuracies in the accounts of National Savings centres across the country with £3.1 million discrepancies in the Glasgow office, £1.2 million in Blackpool and £5.1 million in Durham.

As a result, the agency has net assets of £800,000 when compared to its liabilities to investors. One error, later corrected, led to £11.7 million being removed from a deposit bond account though no money was due.

"Significant unexplained balances" of £3.4 million also existed on the agency's suspense accounts, funds that hold cash until allocated to customer accounts.

National Savings admitted that the books were in such a mess that the figure could be even higher, though it stressed that individual investors would not suffer because their funds were protected by statute.

A further £2.25 million went unaccounted for when National Savings failed to demand from the Post Office substantial sums paid over the counter by investors. Consultants investigating the errors cost £500,000.

In a series of recommendations, Sir John called for active monitoring and training of financial staff, many of whom lacked basic skills, such as double-entry bookkeeping.

He also attacked the agency for failing to meet a deadline to report its progress on the affair by the end of last year and pointed out that fraud remained a major worry.

"There were undoubtedly weaknesses in controls which could have provided the opportunity for fraud," he said. "Fraud could have been a contributory factor for the unresolved differences in the financial accounting systems."

David Davis, chairman of the Commons Public Accounts Committee which ordered the NAO report, said: "This is not rocket science. These errors leave National Savings open to fraud, to loss, and it is the taxpayer who will have to pay."



David Davis: Taxpayer will have to pay for errors

hundreds were due to untrained clerical staff calculating figures by hand and misallocating balances of savings accounts.

Staff in key finance posts lacked accountancy qualifications and accounting procedures were so weak that tiny miscalculations resulted in huge discrepancies, said the report to MPs.

National Savings, which helps to fund the National Debt in its role as an executive agency of the Treasury, has a 12 per cent share of the personal savings market in the UK, with 30 million customers investing £63 billion last year.

The agency's biggest market is in pensioners' guaranteed income bonds, premium bonds and children's bonus bonds, often gifts arranged for youngsters by parents and relatives.



Staff at the Great British Beer Festival enjoy a pint before drinkers arrive for the opening yesterday of the show in London's Olympia

Peter Macdiarmid

Road tsar will slow cars to cut jams

By RANDEEP RAMESH
Transport Correspondent

BRITAIN'S MOTORISTS face tighter controls on their driving under plans aimed at cutting traffic jams, ministers announced yesterday.

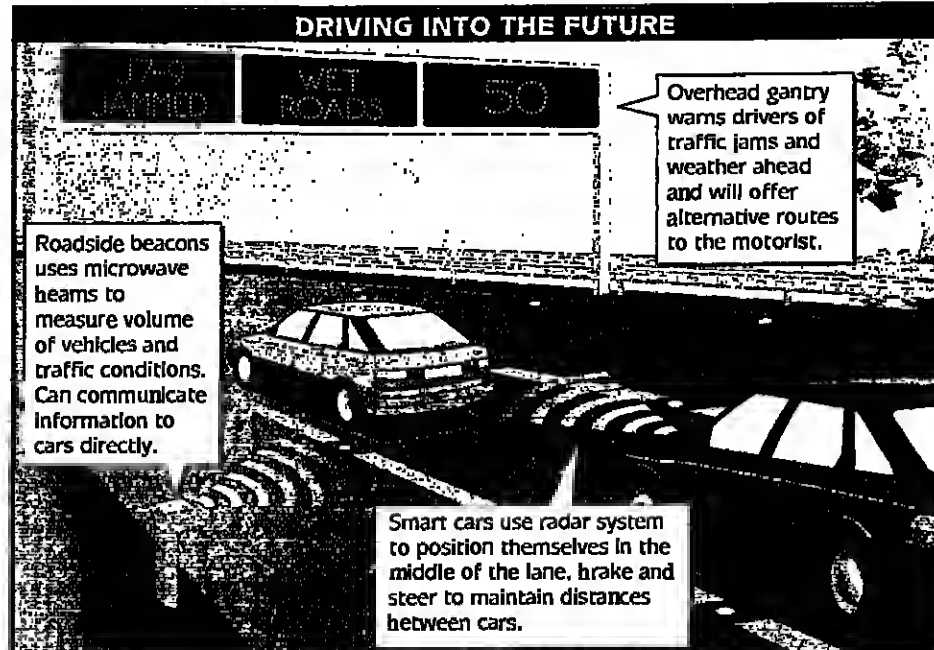
A package of measures, including crawler lanes for slow-moving traffic on motorways and low-speed zones, will be rolled out by the Highways Agency, which oversees the nation's major roads.

The agency, whose head Lawrence Haynes has been dubbed the "car tsar", said there were plans to expand the trials of the variable speed limits system on the M25.

On busy sections of London's orbital motorway, drivers are told to go slower than 70mph to prevent a traffic jam building up.

Variable limits have proved a success during the two years of operation between junctions 10 and 15 on the M25. Police say there has been a 28 per cent reduction in accidents and there has been a 15 per cent increase in drivers using the nearside lane.

The experiment will be



extended to other sections of the M25, the M5 and M6 around Birmingham and on stretches of busy motorways around Manchester.

Officials pointed out there had been a drop in pollution attributed to car exhausts and

much "smoother" traffic flows. Also being considered is a futuristic vision of an "automated highway". This would see a complex electronic monitoring system ensure cars "communicated" with each other so they can travel at a constant

speed at a safe distance apart. "It is some way off, but there are working examples in progress," said one official. The agency has already examined a Californian experiment where motorists drive onto a moving "belt" that transports vehicles

QUEUE-BUSTING SCHEMES

Nottingham	Driver information system uses electronic messages to warn drivers of jams
London	Variable speed limits on busy stretches of M25; Crawler lane on M25
Hull	Free emergency service to clear stranded cars from highway
Swansea	Cars fitted with electronic messaging systems to warn drivers of jams
Manchester	Variable speed limits on stretches of city's northern road system

along a stretch of highway.

The agency also plans to introduce crawler lanes to the M25 within two years, between junctions 16 and 19 on the west side of the motorway and east of junction 27 on the north-east section. This will see lorries and heavy vehicles using the hard shoulder in a carefully controlled operation.

"We are also looking to the agency to promote better connections with train services and link up with park-and-ride schemes around towns and cities," said Lord Whitby, the roads minister. He said the agency will also "shift emphasis from road building".

"We are looking to make maintenance a priority and have given the agency £300 million more to spend," he said. Motoring organisations welcomed the new package. Peter Brill, the RAC's technology spokesman, said: "Motorists do not want to sit in congestion and need to be able to make smart, informed choices about time, mode and route of travel."

However, the lobby was concerned the plans were not detailed enough.

A spokesman for the Road Haulage Association said: "If we wish to make maximum use of our roads network, we have to start to distinguish between those using the roads for private, social purposes and those depending upon the roads for their livelihood."

Dounreay supplied weapons material

THE PRIME Minister Tony Blair misinformed MPs in June when he gave them a categorical assurance that the Dounreay nuclear complex in Scotland had never been the source of material for nuclear weapons.

Instead, a Parliamentary answer by Margaret Beckett revealed yesterday that the site was used to make plutonium and enriched uranium for British nuclear weapons for almost 20 years, which previous Governments have denied since the plant started in 1956.

In the written answer, as one of her last acts as President of the Board of Trade, Mrs Beckett told Labour MP John

By CHARLES ARTHUR
Technology Editor

McWilliam: "As a result of an audit of the records requested by the Government... it is clear that there were in the past documented transfers from Dounreay which related to UK military programmes."

The transfers would have happened before 1973, when Britain signed the Euratom Treaty to verify that nuclear materials are not diverted from civil purposes to military use. The material went to the Atomic Weapons Research Establishment (AWRE), in Aldermaston, now operated by the Ministry of Defence.

On 3 June, during Prime Minister's Questions, Mr Blair told Alex Salmond, leader of the Scottish National Party: "I can confirm that no such (radioactive) material has ever been sent from Dounreay for use for UK weapons purposes."

The UK Atomic Energy Authority (UKAEA), which has responsibility for Dounreay, insisted yesterday that the site's primary role "has always been civil, not defence" and that it was set up to test technologies for civil nuclear reactors. But between 1956 and 1973, UKAEA was also responsible for AWRE.

Yesterday Mr Salmond said: "This new information vindicates the SNP's campaign (on Dounreay). The Prime Minister either misled the House, or was himself misled." "This episode illustrates that the secrecy over nuclear matters is not just confined to the industry itself, but also extends to the heart of Government, which is extremely serious. The SNP will now be demanding a full explanation."

to see the truth come out at last."

Earlier this year spokesmen for Dounreay admitted that it was going to accept reactor material from the former Soviet republic of Georgia for reprocessing.

At that time the plant had had to stop reprocessing following critical reports from the Health and Safety Executive (HSE). Sooo afterwards the UKAEA reported that about 170 kg of fissile material was "unaccounted for" from the 1950s and 1960s.

Days later, the Government announced that it would not allow Dounreay to continue reprocessing after it had dealt

with existing contracts. Within days, a damning report from the HSE was leaked which detailed manifest faults in the operation and management of the plant.

No one suffered permanent radioactive contamination in Monday's accident at the Sellafield site run by British Nuclear Fuels, the company said yesterday.

A laboratory building was cleared of 72 people after a release of radioactivity was automatically detected.

One person had external contamination removed. The other people involved were not affected and the laboratory where the release was detected is being cleaned.

IN BRIEF

Sex attack on blind man

A BLIND man faces an agonising wait to see if he has contracted HIV after being subjected to a "horrendous" sex assault in Edinburgh two months ago. Detectives say the attacker offered to help the man but lured him into an alley before assaulting him. The man, who has been blind since birth, is now awaiting the results of HIV tests.

Doctor on murder charge

A HOSPITAL anaesthetist was committed to Leeds Crown Court yesterday charged with murdering a nurse, Vickie Fletcher, 21, who worked at Pontefract Infirmary was shot in May at Castleford, West Yorkshire. Dr Thomas Shanks, 47, of Pontefract, is also charged with illegally possessing an AK47 assault rifle.

Bomb defused for Eastenders

NEARLY 2,000 people were returning home tonight after a World War Two bomb was defused. The bomb, which was discovered yesterday by workers on a building site in Harford Street, Stepney, east London, was made safe this afternoon by a squad from the Royal Engineers Bomb Disposal Unit.

Britons held over drug claims

SIX BRITISH tourists were yesterday remanded in jail for eight days by a court in Cyprus while police investigate allegations that they were trafficking in drugs. The men, all thought to be from north London, were arrested by police, following a tip-off, during a pre-dawn raid on their apartment in the southern resort of Aya Napa.

Babies hit by skin disease

INFANTS DEVELOPED hives and redness - symptoms of bullous impetigo - soon after they left Forth Park Hospital in Kirkcaldy, Fife, over the last few weeks. Eight probable and 11 suspected cases were identified. The infection can be serious in new-born babies.

MO MOWLAM

"The recurrent problems over the parades issue show us how far reconciliation between the two communities still has to go"

—THE WEDNESDAY REVIEW, PAGE 4

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Huge rise in Caesarean births

TOO FEW women are allowed real choice over pregnancy and giving birth, campaigners said today as Government strategy for mothers-to-be celebrated its fifth anniversary.

The National Childbirth Trust warned that Caesarean sections are still on the increase and real choice for women still depends on where they live.

The Changing Childbirth strategy was launched by the last government to ensure that care of a pregnant woman should be "planned and provided... in partnership with her".

Today the NCT launches a 10-point plan, calling on the Government to see maternity care as a crucial part of its

By GLENDA COOPER

health improvement programme and to improve the quality of post-natal care.

It also wants action to reduce the number of Caesarean sections carried out in Britain. A report by the Audit Commission last year revealed the number of Caesareans had increased to a level that is worrying doctors. In the UK, 17 per cent of births are Caesareans, compared to 13 per cent five years ago, costing the NHS an estimated £20m.

Linda Turner, a senior NCT volunteer said: "Fear of litigation is driving the rate of Caesareans" up, (there is) inadequate support for junior doctors, lack of training and I

also think women have lost some confidence about their bodies and what they can do. They need to be given the facts and figures about giving birth."

Another priority should be woman-centred maternity care in midwife-led services. However, Ruth Howard, an NCT trustee, said that many have been axed because of lack of resources. "Week by week, we hear of small user-friendly projects being dismantled because of lack of funds," she said.

In Bolton, a Changing Childbirth initiative was wound up despite increased birth weights for babies from disadvantaged families. In North Middlesex Hospital, where the number of Caesarean sections was falling, the scheme folded after a mid-

wife was offered redundancy.

"Many of us who have been involved in Changing Childbirth are worried that the excellent work achieved over the past five years could be undermined, because of the lack of resources or lack of commitment or simply lack of understanding of the importance of maternity issues for public health," said Ms Howard.

The 10-point plan urges the Government to allow women more involvement in planning and monitoring maternity services, and better post-natal care from midwives, including support for breastfeeding and encouraging drop-in community schemes so that parents, particularly from disadvantaged groups, have access to help.

Joe Vito 1:50

WORLD
UTER SUPERSTORE

Trail of secrets leads to billionaires who could tear British football apart

BY STEVE BOGGAN
PAUL MCCANN
ANNE HANLEY
AND NICK HARRIS

SECRECY HUNG over the proposed European football Superleague like heavy fog yesterday. But in the gloom there was a glimpse of the substantial figure of Rupert Murdoch.

"We were invited to the first meeting to discuss the plans, and even we don't know what's going on," said a spokeswoman for the Dutch club Ajax.

It is said that little happens on the world media stage these days without Mr Murdoch being somewhere in the vicinity and the secret superleague project appears little different. Ajax are among 16 elite clubs thought to form the basis of the breakaway movement, but being invited to the party seems no guarantee of being asked to dance.

"We had someone go to a meeting in London on July 2 to talk about a new Superleague - but we've heard nothing since," said the Ajax spokeswoman.

The meeting, at the offices of City solicitors Slaughter & May, was couched in secrecy. The floors above and below the gathering were reportedly cleared of staff and all papers were destroyed before the talks finished, ensuring no documentary proof of a breakaway could emerge in the media.

Behind the operation is Media Partners International, a company with offices in London, New York and Milan. It is run by Rodolfo Rechi, a sporting events specialist and former chairman of Fininvest, which is the media giant owned by Silvio Berlusconi, the former Italian Prime Minister.

Speculation is now rife among football clubs not involved in the deal that Mr Murdoch is preparing to team up with Mr Berlusconi to corner European football.

Yesterday, Fininvest confirmed it was in talks with Mr Murdoch's News Corporation and the German media mogul Leo Kirch aimed at forming a "new European media major".



Silvio Berlusconi
May team up with Murdoch to corner European football

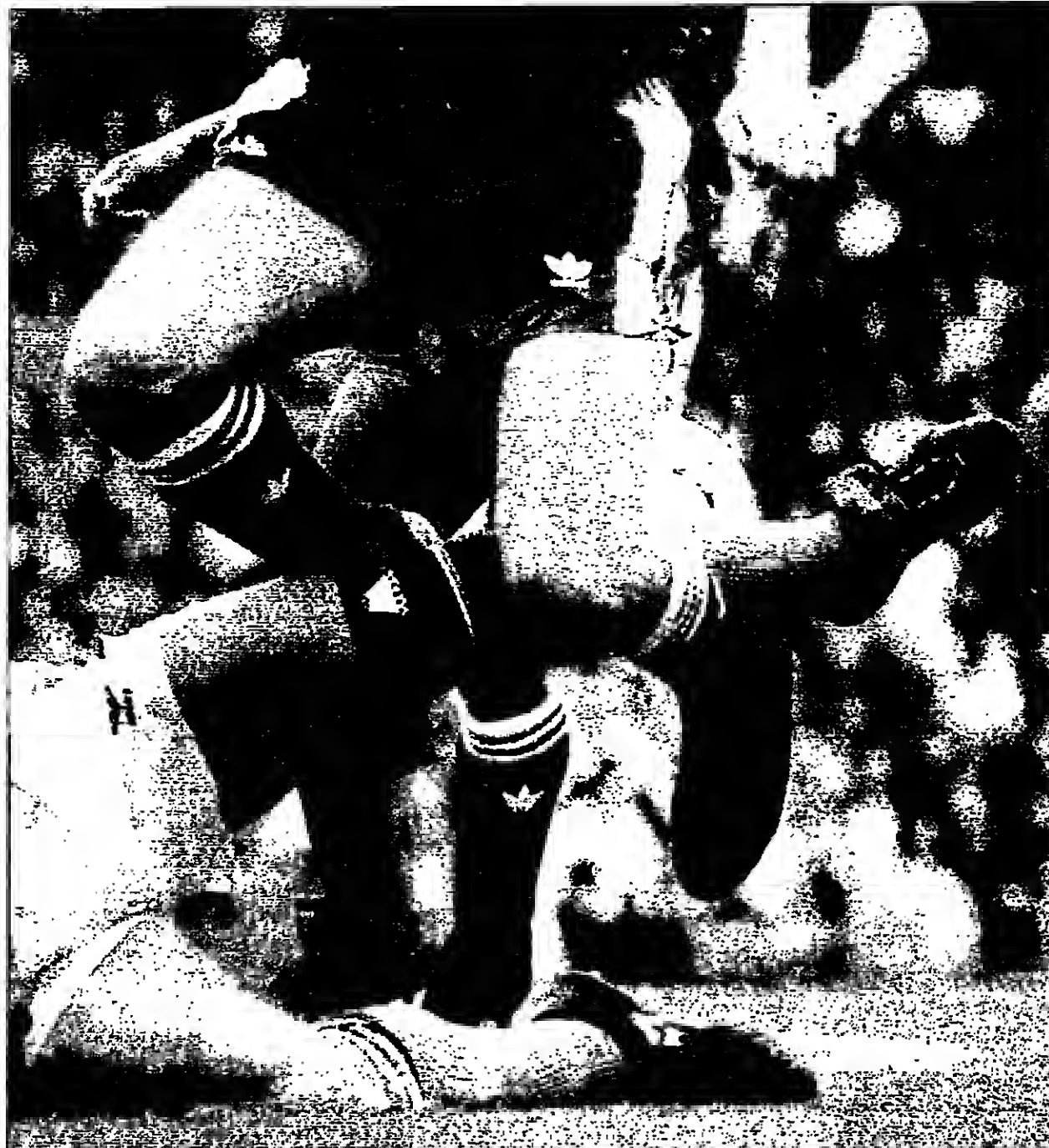


Rupert Murdoch
'Little happens on world media stage without him'

If Mr Murdoch's previous form is anything to go by, he will use sport to boost viewing figures. This is a method he has used to devastating effect in America with baseball, and in Britain with football and rugby league.

The first plank of the alliance was laid yesterday when Mr Berlusconi sold a one-third minority stake in a sports channel owned by Kirch to the Kirch media empire for £102m (£62m).

The next stage of the deal is likely to be the sale of 20 per cent of the Kirch empire to Murdoch, Berlusconi and Prince Al Waleed Bin Talal, a Saudi Arabian billionaire who



owns Four Seasons hotels. Saks (the New York department store), a large stake in Euro-Disney, and a television enterprise with the singer Michael Jackson.

Mr Murdoch's UK television business, BSkyB, denies that it is the vehicle for his first major

move into Europe. However, he is keen to get a foothold in Germany and to spread the expertise of BSkyB in subscription sports television.

Leo Kirch owns 40 per cent of Germany's largest newspaper group, Axel Springer, but his company is overstretched after

ploughing millions into the creation of a digital television channel called DFL - a channel that would be useful for pan-European pay-per-view football.

A bail-out of Kirch gives Europe's other media giants the blueprint for an alliance that

will help share the high start-up costs of the digital television revolution.

Mr Berlusconi, who is currently appealing against a jail sentence for bribery, was in talks earlier this year with Mr Murdoch's BSkyB about selling his Mediaset television sub-



Prince al Waleed bin Talal
Saudi billionaire



Leo Kirch
His company ploughed millions into digital TV

sidary. Later, it was revealed that Tony Blair, the Prime Minister, had spoken on Mr Murdoch's behalf in a telephone conversation with Romano Prodi, the Italian premier when he asked if the deal would be permitted by the Italian authorities.

Mr Blair later came under fire from Opposition MPs, but defended himself by saying he was simply giving Mr Murdoch the same backing he would give to any British businessman, apparently forgetting that Mr Murdoch is an Australian who has taken American nationality.

"It makes perfect sense for Murdoch to be involved in this,"

said the secretary of one Premiership club yesterday. "He's not going to lie down and see the top clubs taken away from the Premiership. That would be disastrous for coverage on Sky. But I guess we'll be the last to find out."

The English clubs involved - Arsenal, Manchester United and Liverpool - have attended several meetings with other top clubs. The Slaughter & May partners dealing with the breakaway are Philippe Chappatte, an EU competition law specialist, and Tony Beare, who specialises in corporate tax.

In attendance at the July 2 meeting are thought to have been representatives of J.F.Morgan, the investment bank which will underwrite the £2bn venture, and executives from Juventus, Milan and Inter from Italy; Bayern Munich, and Borussia Dortmund from Germany; Paris St Germain and Olympique Marseilles from France; Real Madrid and Barcelona from Spain; Ajax from the Netherlands; Panathinaikos from Greece; Benfica from Portugal; and Anderlecht from Belgium.

It is thought a further 16 clubs will be drafted in depending on the kind of competition the organisers decide to deploy.

The Premier League is desperate to hold its domestic 20 teams together and has put threats of a breakaway at the top of the agenda for its next meeting with clubs on September 3.

It said this week that it had received assurances from Liverpool, Manchester United and Arsenal over the future of their European football, but it seems little can stop the teams from joining the breakaway.

Whatever happens, most clubs will be pleased that the sport's European governing body, UEFA, will be forced to give them more say over how international competitions are run.

They have been disillusioned for years over UEFA's handling of the financial side of the business.

THE SUPERLEAGUE'S FIRST 16 CANDIDATES

Juventus (Italy) Achieved a notable landmark last season with their 25th Serie A title, but only after a row over favouritism from referees that culminated in scuffles in parliament.	Milan (Italy) It is easy to see why Sergio Berlusconi would want his club in a European super league. Last term the red and blacks finished so low (10th) in Serie A that they failed to qualify for Europe.	Internazionale (Italy) The blue and blacks are now very much the top dogs in the city of Milan, having come a close second to Juventus in last season's Serie A to claim a place in the European Cup.	Manchester United (England) Their anticipated long-term dominance of the English game was interrupted last season by the resurgence of Arsenal.	Arsenal (England) It took a Frenchman, their manager Arsène Wenger, to restore the Gunners to the summit of the English game and secure the League and FA Cup double last season.	Liverpool (England) Third place in the Premiership was not enough last season for the Anfield hierarchy, which has brought in the experienced French coach, Gérard Houllier, to work with Roy Evans.	Bayern Munich (Germany) Second place to surprise champions Kaiserslautern last term has brought the Bavarians another crack at the European Cup, which they won three years in a row in the 1970s.	Borussia Dortmund (Germany) The club from the Ruhr emerged from the doldrums to win the Bundesliga in 1995 and 96, and the following year, they won three years in a row in the European Cup.
Paris St-Germain (France) Another club that has not qualified for this year's Champions League by right: they only finished eighth last term in a French League campaign.	Olympique Marseilles (France) Probably the most scandal-ridden club in Europe. The wealth of the entrepreneur Bernard Tapie helped them win the European Cup in 1993.	Real Madrid (Spain) The club with the most glittering history on the continent: seven European Cup triumphs, including last season's prize to add to five in a row between 1956 and '60.	Barcelona (Spain) The reigning Spanish champions can boast arguably the best support in Europe but have a long way to go before they can catch up with the record of their bitter rivals, Real Madrid.	Ajax (Netherlands) The runaway Dutch champions last season (for the 27th time), which was their first in the continent's most historic club stadium: the Amsterdam Arena.	Panathinaikos (Greece) Contenders more because of their support and potential than their record, last season's Greek League runners-up have won their domestic title 18 times but never a European title.	Benfica (Portugal) Distant runners-up to Porto in the Portuguese League last season, Benfica have a proud history (20 domestic titles and two European Cups) but a chaotic present.	Anderlecht (Belgium) The biggest team in Brussels have been overshadowed by less fashionable provincial clubs in recent years and won the last of their 24 Belgian titles in 1995.

Top clubs can afford to do anything they like

IF THERE is one thing that can be dismissed in the debate about the European Super League it is the warning from Keith Wiseman at the weekend. Leave the Premiership, the Football Association's chairman said, "clubs and players might well find themselves excluded from the whole world of sanctioned football".

On the face of it the threat seems substantial. No England caps, no English league matches and none of the money currently being pumped into the domestic programme from television.

Except the clubs, if pushed, might welcome their exclusion. Ask a Premiership manager what irritates him most: if it is not the fixture congestion caused by too many European and League fixtures (that would be cured at a stroke by expulsion) then it is having to release players for international matches.

That strips polyglot clubs like Manchester United, Arsenal and Chelsea virtually bare, wrecking tactical preparation. Then there is the risk their

BY GUY HODGSON

prized assets will return from playing for England, Norway, Italy, etc. with a serious injury, as Liverpool's Jamie Redknapp did.

Only football would tolerate this. No wonder Liverpool want to insure Michael Owen for £50m.

Then there is the problem of ensuring other countries comply. If Italy were barring England's path to the World Cup with players from Juventus and the Milan clubs - bound to feature in any Euro Super League - the pressures on the FA to lower the barricades to let in Owen, David Beckham, Tony Adams, et al would be enormous.

Even if Lancaster Gate could repulse that, the clubs have the ultimate retaliatory weapon, playing matches live on the satellite or cable station that comes top of the scramble to televise the Super League at 3pm on Saturdays. When Wimbledon versus Leicester City starts to get desultory crowds, the FA would have to buckle.

The assumption must be that the big clubs will get what they want, just as they did when the Premiership was formed six years ago. That will come in the form of a further enhanced European Cup - the Champions League is already a misnomer with assorted runners-up included - under the jurisdiction of the European governing body, Uefa.

The question then will be whether Arsenal, Manchester United and Liverpool leave English football entirely or participate both at home and in Europe. The latter, with the interests of the national associations, the clubs and television in mind, is the likelier option.

The principal problem will be appeasing the clubs left behind, like Everton and Tottenham Hotspur, who used to be included in the schemes of grandeur but who will find the door closed to the exclusive European club. They will have to be bought off with promises of expansion.

By 2010 there could be 10 British clubs with playing squads of 40 who play both in

Europe and against their poorer brethren in the English and Scottish Leagues. By 2030 the Premiership might be a nostalgia trip occupied by teams with quaint second names like Wednesday, County and Forest who perform in the shadow of the London Gunners and the Second City All Stars.

Already there are predictions for the demise of national sides and leagues. "The European League will come," Franz Beckenbauer, the former captain and coach of Germany, said, "and the top clubs will gain in power. One day there won't be national teams any more."

Beckenbauer was speaking after this year's World Cup finals, which he described as "OK, but without the big moments".

"Some games in the first round should not have taken part in a stadium but on an all-weather practice pitch," he said.

In 50 years' time they could be saying that about Nottingham Forest v Leeds United, both English champions since 1978.

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Joe V. 11:50

Alarm at shortage of new nurses

A "HORRIFIC" fall in nursing recruits will jeopardise the Government's vision of raising the number of nurses in NHS hospitals, a top national body claims today.

In the last four years, the number of nurses in training has dropped by more than 8,000 - a decline of 15 per cent - says the English National Board for Nursing, Midwifery and Health Visiting (ENB) in its annual report. The reason for the drop is a decline in applicants.

The decline in trainee nurses was described as "surprising and horrific" by the Royal College of Nursing. The report follows a promise by Frank Dobson, Secretary of State for Health, in last month's Comprehensive Spending Review to give the NHS an extra 15,000 trained nurses and 6,000 training places over the next three years. The increases - the biggest in NHS history, he said - would allow hospitals to treat an extra 3 million patients.

But Rita Le Var, the ENB's assistant chief executive, said she did not know where the recruits would come from. "Who will fill these places when we already have a shortage of applicants?" she told the RCN magazine, the *Nursing Standard*.

The ENB report shows that there were 45,538 nurses training in March 1998, 2,447 fewer than in the previous year. The number of trainees had fallen by 8,188 since 1994.

BY GLENDA COOPER

The RCN blamed the recruitment crisis on the lack of status for nurses and uncertainty over career prospects.

A spokesman said: "These figures reflect the problem throughout the whole profession that nurses are not seen as valued. Given the comprehensive spending review announcement, it's extremely worrying in terms of where the nurses, which we desperately need, are going to come from."

It is hoped that the numbers of qualified nurses will be boosted by attracting unemployed nurses back to work and bringing in foreign nurses. But the Secretary of State faced criticism last month when it was revealed that 7,000 new doctors promised under the

spending review would have to come from overseas.

"We should be aiming towards self-sufficiency," said a British Medical Association spokesman. "However there are indications that the trend is in the opposite direction and in the short term we are going to have large numbers of doctors from overseas."

The RCN agreed the Government had to act quickly. "So much of the Government's vision for the future of the NHS relies on the existence of a motivated and highly skilled nursing workforce," said RCN general secretary Christine Hancock.

"You can't give patients high-quality care without nurses. We already know we're facing the worst crisis in nurse shortages for 25 years, so a fall in the number of students training should set the alarm bells ringing. The Government must act and invest in nursing to make it an attractive profession which rewards nurses properly in terms of pay, career development and working conditions."

A spokesman from the NHS Executive told the *Nursing Standard* that training 6,000 nurses by 2002 would not be easy. But he said that action had already been taken to increase applications, including a publicity campaign, an increase of 2.75 per cent in student bursaries and a decision to pay tuition fees for nursing degrees in full.



Christine Hancock: 'The Government must act'



Members of Cornwall's Kneehigh Theatre carry out sound experiments with 'Hoot Boots' at Cligge Head near Perranporth Simon Burt

Eco-warriors destroy field of genetically engineered crops

BY CHARLES ARTHUR
Technology Editor

TWELVE PEOPLE were questioned by police yesterday after a night-time attack by eco-warriors who attempted to rip up genetically-modified maize plants at a farm near Totnes, south Devon.

The 12 were arrested and held in custody at a police station in Plymouth on suspicion of causing criminal damage or conspiracy to cause criminal damage.

Their arrest followed an incident on Monday night when a security guard at the National

Institute of Agricultural Botany (NIAB) at Hood Farm, Dartington, called the police saying that around 20 people in white suits were in the field spraying the crop.

The eight men and four women, aged between 20 and 40, came from the Manchester and Bristol areas. Samples of the spray used on the crops was sent for analysis.

Dr John Macleod, the NIAB

director, said: "I personally find it very frustrating that people take the law into their own hands to destroy the evidence which will allow an informed decision."

First reports said the trial area which contained one genetically-modified variety of maize and four conventional control varieties was destroyed. In this attack the protesters missed their target - the genetically modified crop.

The two are indistinguishable in appearance. A statement yesterday from a group called the Genetic

enable informed discussion and eventual decision.

Monday night's attack occurred even though the NIAB had hired security guards following a raid a week ago by a different group of protesters in which several hundred square metres of conventional maize were destroyed. In this attack the protesters missed their target - the genetically modified crop.

The two are indistinguishable in appearance. A statement yesterday from a group called the Genetic

Engineering Network said that 30 "concerned citizens", many from the Totnes area, had taken "direct action" aimed at preventing the pollination of a genetically engineered crop.

House of Commons officials last night confirmed that they took the decision to try to keep genetically-modified food out of Commons bars and restaurants. The decision was taken by officials and not by MPs on the House's all-party catering committee.

NHS to launch patient helpline

WORRIED PATIENTS from Birmingham to Cornwall will soon be able to ring a 24-hour NHS helpline after a pilot scheme proved so popular that more than 4,000 calls were received in a month.

The helpline, NHS Direct, is designed to provide a hi-tech "first port of call" for patients.

BY GLENDA COOPER

Callers are put through to specially-trained nurses, available 365 days a year, who can give basic medical advice, or tell callers to see their GP or get emergency help.

The 13 parts of the country to be covered by the helpline

were unveiled by the Health Minister, Alan Milburn, yesterday. He said an extra £55m is to be spent across urban and rural areas, from Birmingham to Cornwall, by next April and will serve 19 million people. Experts hope the service will be provided across England by the end of 2000.

Ladybirds being wiped out by parasitic wasps

BY STEVE CONNOR
Science Editor

THE BRITISH ladybird is being wiped out by a tiny parasitic wasp whose numbers have exploded over the past few years.

Scientists forecast that the decimation could cost millions of pounds in extra pesticides needed to control the insects normally eaten by ladybirds.

Surveys have revealed that the number of ladybirds infected by the parasitic wasp has escalated from about 20 per cent three years ago to more than 70 per cent - a level of infection that is having a significant impact on the beetle's population.

This year's cold, wet summer is causing additional problems for the ladybird because it needs warm sunshine to become active enough to meet potential mates and so reproduce.

The seven-spot ladybird is the largest and the most common ladybird. It is a friend of gardeners and farmers because of its voracious appetite for aphids - one beetle can consume about 5,500 green fly in a lifetime.

Now it is under attack from a small wasp, *Dinocampus coccinellae*, which has multiplied



The seven-spot ladybird is plagued by parasitic wasps

alarmingly over recent years, according to Irene Geoghegan, a research scientist at the Scottish Crops Research Institute in Dundee, who is conducting a survey of the ladybird and its parasite.

"The interaction of this wasp with its host is truly gruesome. Wasps locate a ladybird and lay a single egg inside it," Ms Geoghegan said.

The egg hatches into a larva which feeds off the living beetle. When it is fully fed it severs the ladybird's leg nerves to paralyse it and burrows out of its abdomen to weave a cocoon between the ladybird's legs.

"Here it is protected by the ladybird's bright warning coloration and by the foul-tasting yellow fluid that ladybirds exude from their legs," she said.

"This manipulative abuse of the ladybird's own defensive systems is the reason that the wasp does not kill its host. By the time the ladybird dies of starvation, the wasp has hatched from its cocoon and it's immediately ready to seek out ladybirds for its own eggs."

The wasp can live two to three weeks, and a single female hatched in spring can infect more than 10,000 ladybirds.

Surveys around Dundee showed that nearly three in four ladybirds were infected with the wasp. Initial studies in the rest of Scotland found that 70 per cent of ladybird samples have some degree of parasitic infection, Ms Geoghegan said.

"Such a high level must be highly detrimental to population numbers of their host, and thus to farmers and gardeners."

About £100 million is spent each year in Britain in controlling aphids and this might have to be doubled if the ladybird population collapsed completely, the scientists estimated.

Ms Geoghegan, who has received a millennium research grant of £14,000 to extend her survey of the seven-spot ladybird, believes the wasp has benefited from the milder winters. The lack of sharp frosts in spring means that the wasp can now have three generations a year instead of the normal two.

A fall in the ladybird population will not automatically result in a decline in the wasps because the parasite can move on to other species, she said.

"This is a problem in the sense that we cannot allow things to go on. If you throw an ecosystem dangerously off balance you can't get it back," Ms Geoghegan said.

Inquest told of Scout tragedy

A CORONER yesterday called for stricter guidelines for Scout adventure activities after hearing how an 11-year-old boy plunged 80 feet to his death on a walk at a weekend camp.

Scott Fanning slipped and fell into a ravine after a volunteer helper in charge of 11 boys missed a footpath turning and led the party onto a dangerous slope.

The inquest in Rochdale heard that Scott, from Chad-

derton, Oldham, had not been given clear directions by Peter McPhillips, 27, after he realised he had gone the wrong way.

North Manchester Coroner Barrie Williams recorded a verdict of accidental death on Scott, who died of severe head injuries after falling onto rocks in a shallow river bed near the Ashworth Valley Scout Camp at Heywood.

Mr McPhillips told the hearing that he had missed the

turning as he led the group up a slope to finish on an unofficial path on the side of the gorge, some 30 yards below the recognised public footpath. The footpath ran out on the slope and he decided it was dangerous to go any further. Instead he ordered the boys to climb up to the public footpath above them.

"I knew I was going to have a problem with one lad and I had to help him up," he said. "I then saw Scott out of the cor-

ner of my eye. Instead of going straight up he had gone round the gap in the path to the other side."

"The next thing I saw him sliding down the loose scree slope like a child on a slide, feet first and obviously trying to stop himself. Then he went over the edge."

The coroner said many of the problems could have been foreseen with "more planning and foresight".

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Unelected minister will go in mid-1999

THE FORMER chairman of Scottish Media Group, Gus Macdonald, will be industry minister in the Scottish Office for only nine months, his opponents began to realise yesterday.

Mr Macdonald, who will enter the House of Lords in November as a life peer, will step down when the new Scottish Parliament takes over the industry brief from the Scottish Office in May 1999.

Opposition had been mounting all day to the appointment of Mr Macdonald who had no

BY FRAN ABRAMS
Political Correspondent

on Labour's Scottish executive during the Stirling by-election. He said yesterday that he had little contact with either Mr Blair or Donald Dewar, the Scottish Secretary, who appointed him.

"I haven't been in Downing Street since the election, and I haven't met the Prime Minister since the election," he said. Although he lives 200 yards from Mr Dewar in Glasgow he said the minister had never been to his house and he had not been to Mr Dewar's until Sunday when they discussed the job.

"If it's cronyism, it's a very strange definition," he said. "I am delighted to be welcomed by the Scottish TUC and the CBI in Scotland. I am there to try to bring business and enterprise to the agenda for the Scottish parliament ... for me that is the priority."

More than one MP - including devolution opponent and Labour member Tam Dalyell - has suggested that Mr Macdonald's appointment was a reward for his support for devolution in last summer's referendum.

There was some speculation that Mr Macdonald will get another ministerial post once the Scottish assembly is operating.

Shadow constitutional affairs spokesman Dr Liam Fox has written to Lord Neill asking his committee to look at the issue, adding: "I would also urge you to inquire into what future rewards, if any, the Government is planning to give Mr Macdonald for taking on the job at the Scottish Office."

Lord Neill's committee does not become involved in individual cases.

Leading article, Review, page 3



Macdonald: 'No cronyism'

recent Labour Party history or Parliamentary seat.

The Conservatives even suggested that Lord Neill, chairman of the Committee on Standards in Public Life, should investigate the matter.

But Mr Macdonald, who gave up his chairmanship this week and will sell his SMG shares, dismissed the row as "a frothy August story for a slow news day".

Tony Blair is keen to put businessmen in his government and has already given ministerial jobs to the former chairman of BE Lord Simon, and Lord Sainsbury of the supermarket family.

Although Mr Macdonald was



Robin Cook and Clare Short, seen here examining a report on human rights, are criticised for their handling of the Montserrat crisis

Relief to volcano-hit Montserrat showed 'bungling incompetence'

THE GOVERNMENT'S confused handling of the crisis in volcano-hit Montserrat stemmed from a Whitehall turf war that continues even now, MPs claimed yesterday.

Both Foreign Secretary Robin Cook and International Development Secretary Clare Short have shown a "lack of political will" in failing to improve relations between their officials in the wake of the emergency, the all-party Commons International Development Committee concluded.

"Unnecessary tensions" between the Foreign Office and the Department for International Development (DfID) had dogged efforts to provide effective emergency relief to the Caribbean island, the committee said.

BY PAUL WAUGH
Political Correspondent

In a withering report on the Government's response to criticism of its reaction to the disaster, the committee stated the two departments suffered from a crucial lack of coordination.

The crisis had shown up the rivalry between the key parts of Whitehall, MPs said.

"We conclude that the Government has failed to address the main organisational weaknesses identified in our previous report. There will always be unnecessary tensions and inefficiencies if DfID money is used to fund FCO political priorities," the report states.

"Experience over Montserrat suggests that when difficult decisions have to be taken

quickly the spirit of inter-departmental cooperation is placed under severe strain."

The committee attacked the Government's decision to ignore its earlier recommendations on improving its relationship with the Montserrat population.

It had urged the Foreign Office to take a more active role in explaining policy to Montserratians and the creation of a single Whitehall department for all dependent territories. Neither move has been taken up.

Tory development spokesman Gary Streeter said it was time the Montserrat and UK public were told exactly who was responsible for the "bungling incompetence" that had characterised the Government's handling of the crisis.

"The publication of this report shows we cannot tell who is in charge of the Department of International Development. Is it Robin Cook or Clare Short who will take responsibility for the Montserrat shambles?" he said.

A DfID spokeswoman denied the two departments had failed to work closely together in recent months to manage aid to the island.

The committee also claimed that while the UK had a duty to the people of the island, it was clear the £75 million pledged by the UK had distorted the International Development Department's aid budget.

The spending meant that more than £25,000 was being invested for every Montserratian, a figure that compared "starkly and unfavourably" with the 11

pence per head spent on India.

The Government had failed to adequately investigate the building of an airport for the island to help future evacuations and boost trade, the MPs said.

They also called on ministers to make a greater effort to restore insurance cover to Montserrat, a move that has been rejected by the Government because it feels it is inappropriate to underwrite insurance on damages relating to natural disasters.

The DfID should produce a realistic Sustainable Development Plan for the island.

"We would value evidence from the department that there is a realistic possibility of Montserrat escaping dependency on UK development assistance," the report stated.

Young on New Deal face dole

BY FRAN ABRAMS

YOUNG UNEMPLOYED people given places on the Government's New Deal programme risk facing a "revolving door" which could put them back on the dole at the end of six months, a committee of MPs said yesterday.

The Education and Employment Committee said the first results of the programme for 18- to 24-year-olds were "very encouraging", but warned that not enough attention had been paid to what happened to them afterwards.

"Retention rates will have to be high if the New Deal is to avoid becoming the 'revolving door' which is familiar to participants on so many previous schemes ... We are disturbed by the apparent lack of attention and guidance from the Employment Service on retention strategies," the committee said.

"Careful matching of participants to jobs, accompanied by development of the employee to fulfil the requirements of the job, will help to safeguard the long-term position of New Deal employees."

The committee looked at the scheme in 12 pilot areas, though it has been running on a national basis since April.

The report also highlighted fears about the prospects for young black people at the end of their subsidy period, and refers to warnings that they could end up rotating between low-skilled jobs.

The Government should survey the level of unregistered unemployment among young people, particularly black people, the report said.

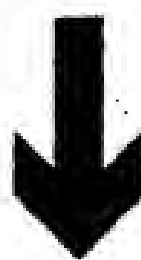
Young people showed enthusiasm for the scheme, as did Employment Service staff. Personal advisers who offered support to each young person on the scheme had also been widely praised.

The scheme had helped the Employment Service to make links with large numbers of new employers.

The latest government figures show that so far 92,500 unemployed young people have started on the New Deal.

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Labour will meet to choose Prime Minister for Wales

WALES LABOUR party executives last night agreed to hold a special one-day conference to choose its leader of the Welsh Assembly.

The move means Welsh Secretary Ron Davies will almost certainly become First Secretary of the devolved body when the 60-member assembly is elected for the first time next May.

Scottish Labour members will hold their conference on the same day - September 19 - in what is already being billed as a "Double Coronation" to confirm Mr Davies and his Scottish counterpart Donald Dewar as leaders of the Welsh Assembly and Scottish Parliament.

The decision by Welsh party officials to hold an electoral college instead of the "one member one vote" system has been attacked by opposition politicians as undemocratic.

Mr Davies has signalled his

BY BRENDAN BERRY

support for a special conference to avoid internal wrangling and put a leader in place well in advance of Labour's campaigning in the Assembly elections.

His likely leadership opponent, Labour's Cardiff West MP Rhodri Morgan, wanted the issue put to every party member in Wales - a view shared by many of his supporters.

Instead, the Wales executive meeting in Cardiff "overwhelmingly" endorsed a recommendation by a party "taskforce" committee to hold an electoral college comprising of blocks of votes. Constituency parties, trade unions, MPs, MEPs and the selected panel of National Assembly candidates will be represented.

Earlier, Plaid Cymru leader Dafydd Wigley MP suggested that his party was ready to



Ron Davies: Likely choice

consider a coalition after next year's assembly elections.

Mr Wigley signalled that Labour support was likely to slip over the next few months as Britain's economic problems increased.

"If Labour were three to four seats short of an overall majority they would look to the

Liberal Democrats as their natural partners (in the assembly)," he said.

"If there was still not enough support for a governing coalition, we would have the responsibility to see whether we could cooperate on an agreed programme."

But the Plaid Cymru leader stopped short of demanding a referendum on independence for Wales as the price for any support in the new assembly.

"We don't go into the assembly to use it as a springboard for independence. That is not what we are about or what Wales is ready to accept," he said.

He later stressed that his party's first option was to be the largest party in the new assembly, and if possible, win an overall majority.

Mr Morgan is confident Labour will win an outright majority in the assembly.

Inspections to be combined

MOVES to combine inspections of education authorities and social services were announced by the Government yesterday.

Ministers hope the joint inspections will help the most vulnerable children.

The first inspection by the Office for Standards in Education and the Social Services Inspectorate will take place in Northumberland next year.

Estelle Morris, school standards minister, said: "The pilot scheme recognises the links which exist between the services provided by local authorities. By bringing together these arrangements, I believe we can help reduce the burden on authorities preparing for separate inspections."

Denise Platt, chief inspector of the Social Services Inspec-

BY BEN RUSSELL
Education Correspondent

torate, said: "It is essential that education and social services departments work closely. Simultaneous reviews will help us find out if this is happening, and to identify whether there are key lessons to be learned about effective corporate management."

Officials say the new joint arrangements will not extend inspectors' remit, but will simplify the process. When they visit local authorities social services inspectors need access to much of the same information as Ofsted inspectors.

The two services also overlap in areas like special schools and some work with children who are sick or have been expelled from school.



THE HOUSE

Hague shuffles his team

THE CONSERVATIVE leader, William Hague, has had a mini-reshuffle following the surprise departure of Michael Jack from his shadow cabinet. Richard Ottaway, Croydon North, moves to local government and party vice-chairman, and Simon Burns, Chelmsford W, moves from social security to environment. Eric Pickles, Brentwood and Ongar, takes Mr Burns's former post.

MPs to get fit for office

FOOTBALL-MAD MPs are set to limber up for the new parliamentary session with a series of fitness tests. The parliamentary soccer team, captained by Bradford South MP Gerry Sutcliffe, will go to the Lillieshall National Sports Centre in September to undertake a series of tests said to be identical to those used by Premier League and Football League clubs.

'Cut interest to stop recession'

INTEREST RATES must be cut to save the manufacturing sector from recession, the Conservative leader, William Hague, said last night. In a speech to businessmen in Swansea, Mr Hague blamed the government for driving the rates up but said the spotlight would now fall on the Bank of England's Monetary Policy Committee, which meets tomorrow.

July 11: 1:50

August set to be a wickedly hot month

BY LINUS GREGORIADIS

IT MAY seem premature to start worrying about getting sweaty. But a new index launched by weather forecasters this week will tell Britons exactly how hot and sticky they are.

As Summer makes a belated appearance in most parts of the country, the Met Office has introduced a new "comfort index" to inform the public on the combined effect of high temperatures and humidity.

The system involves meteorological terms which the Met Office hopes will roll off the tongue as easily as "prevailing wind" and "scattered showers".

The four categories are Slightly Uncomfortable, Moderately Uncomfortable, Very Uncomfortable and Extremely Uncomfortable.

Perhaps not surprisingly, the Met Office said that it expects the index to be adapted by broadcasters to suit their own needs.

Andy Yeatman, a Met Office spokesman, said yesterday: "The index looks at humidity and temperature and comes up with a way of identifying which days a lot of people are going to find uncomfortable. The public have been asking us for a long time to come up with something for days when it becomes hot and sticky. It's more of a 'discomfort index' than a 'comfort index'."

"This sort of thing has been used in a lot of countries but obviously isn't going to be used here as much as it is in places like the southern states of America."

"The guidance we are giving is related to terminology. It will be up to individual broadcasting outlets to come up with their own terms. It will have to be something that evolves."

According to the Met Office there are indications that the sunny weather could continue for the rest of the month.

"August should be better than June or July, particularly in the South. Parts of England and Wales should be drier and sunnier than recently," said Mr Yeatman. "I think it is going



Thankful sun worshippers pack Bournemouth beach in Dorset yesterday as Summer made its late appearance

South Coast Press Agency

WHAT IS A COMFORT ZONE?

The following formula, the Temperature-Humidity Index (THI), is used to calculate the comfort factor:
 $THI = 0.4 (T + Tw) + 4.8$ (in °C)
(T = dry bulb temperature, Tw = wet bulb temperature)

to get hot in the next few days. By Saturday we will be looking at temperatures in the 80s. "Unfortunately people in the north are going to get cloud and a bit of rain."

Rob Bunn, forecaster for PA WeatherCentre, said: "It will be the first good spell this summer. It looks as if we will see some higher temperatures and some sunshine as well."

The possibility of a prolonged period of sunshine has given renewed hope to butchers who have been lamenting the adverse effect of the weather on the barbecue season.

Graham Heasman, director of Dewhurst, the butcher's chain, said yesterday: "The summer is still to come to Great Britain and we are confident that August and September will be glorious."

Mr Heasman said his chain had extended its "Summer Stiz-

zlers" campaign. Temperatures rose to 25°C (77°F) in London yesterday with even hotter conditions expected over the weekend.

According to forecasters it could reach 26°F (30°C) in the South later in the week.

Motoring organisations have warned that roads to the coast will become congested as people flock to Britain's beaches. A spokesman for the AA said: "So far many people seem to have stayed away from the

beach because of the bad weather but I expect many will want to enjoy the sunshine if it remains over the weekend."

The outlook for northern areas and Scotland is less favourable with cooler temperatures and some showers predicted.

A spokesman for the PA WeatherCentre said: "Weather will be more unsettled in the North, but it will still be considerably better than it has been over recent weeks."

Hottest since 1900AD
East heading for driest July in a decade

Britain basks in warmest weekend
Summer gloom will last a month

Wet a rotten summer
Scientists say 1998 will be century's hottest year

COLDEST JUNE TIP
Early June is best

How the media told the tales of meteorology

Best records since weather began

BY BILL HARTSTON

THIS YEAR, we had the wettest April since records began. Last August was the second hottest in history, but 1997 gave us the wettest summer since 1985. Average temperatures in Britain last year were the third warmest on record, and this January and February were the warmest and wettest first two months of the year in the United States since records began. The northern climate in the 1990s has been warmer on average than at any time since the Middle Ages, and last week saw the cloudiest Thursday in Basingstoke since Ian McCasill retired.

I made up the last one, but all the rest come from reliable sources and they raise two important questions: are we genuinely experiencing a remarkable spate of record-breaking weather, and if we are, is it a sign of an irrevocable change in the earth's climate?

"It's a bit like athletics, isn't it?" said the man at the Met Office. "With the weather, there are so many records that can be broken. It's not so surprising."

With heightened interest in the weather and greater speed of data processing, meteorologists have been able to supply an increasingly hungry press and public with weather stories.

It wasn't the warmest January ever in the US, nor the

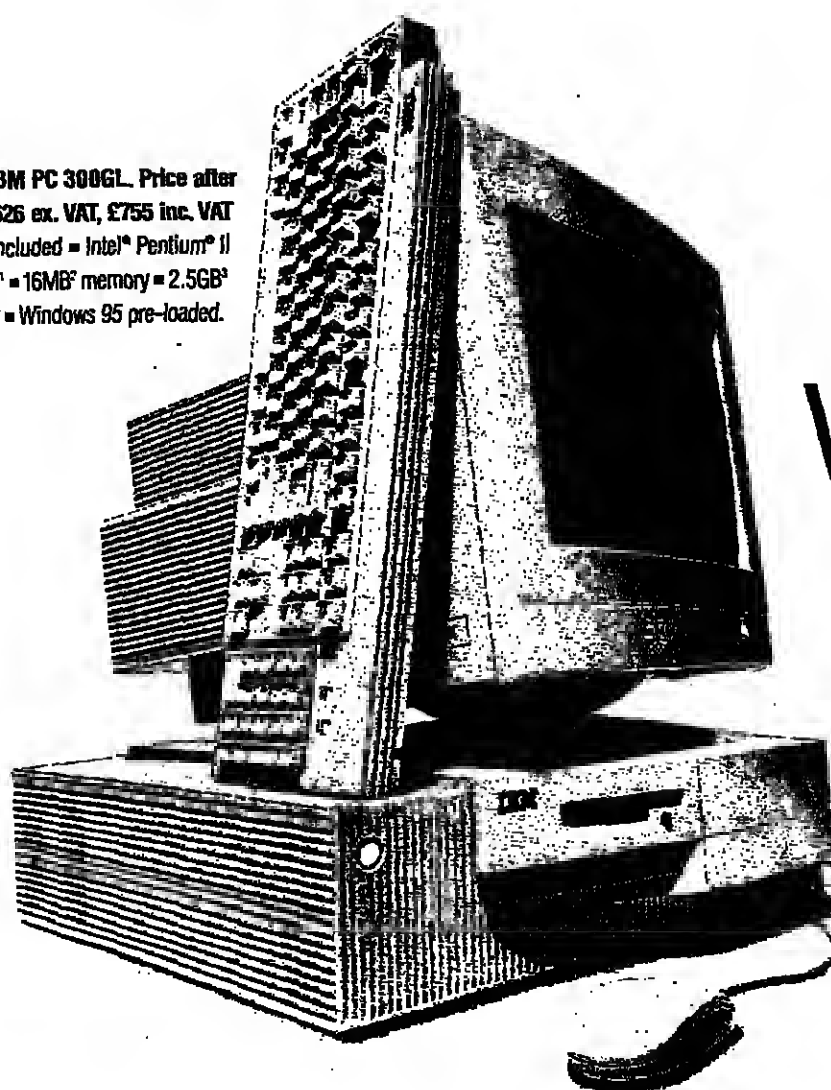
wettest February, but lump the figures together and you get the warmest and wettest opening two months of the year, and another record tumbles. A few years ago, only absolute records - hottest ever, or rainiest since records began - would make the national press. Now we regularly see "warmest for 10 years" stories reported as though they were significant.

But it is getting warmer. The first six months of 1998 were, across the world, the warmest since reliable records began in 1860. Looking back further, however, there is strong evidence that it has been getting warmer since the late 17th century when the Little Ice Age began to abate.

According to the Met Office's records of average temperatures in central England since 1659, 10 of the 20 coldest years on record happened in the last quarter of the 17th century. On the other hand, 1686 was warmer than 1992, so the general warming over the past 300 years is no guarantee of good weather.

If you want a real conversation-stopper try this one: August 1997 may have been the second hottest ever in England and Wales, but it was only the 132nd driest over the past 339 years.

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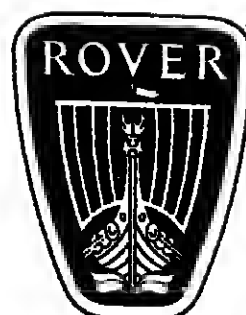
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Serbs drive 30,000 from homes

By KATHERINE BUTLER

INTERNATIONAL AID agencies are struggling to reach tens of thousands of refugees camped in the woods of Kosovo province, after Serb attacks forced them to flee their villages. Fighting blocked plans by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees to send an aid convoy for ethnic Albanians near Malisevo, a former stronghold of the secessionist Kosovo Liberation Army (KLA), where thousands of refugees had sought shelter.

Serbian security forces kept up their operations against ethnic Albanians yesterday, ignoring warnings of a humanitarian catastrophe. With almost 200,000 civilians displaced since the start of the conflict five months ago aid workers fear disaster if cholera breaks out. That is now a serious risk in the searing heat which the region is experiencing.

Clouds of smoke mushroomed from ethnic Albanian villages in the Lausa valley, apparently seized by Serbian security forces in a relentless advance against separatist rebels. Hundreds of ethnic Albanians were reported to have fled their homes after coming under Serbian artillery fire.

Some of the dazed refugees, mainly women and children packed into ramshackle wagons pulled by tractors or horses, said they had seen Serb troops tossing explosives into homes and fields to set them ablaze.

Others said Serbian forces were also trying to burn some of the thick forests carpeting central Kosovo's rolling highlands - possibly to flush out KLA rebels driven off main roads by Belgrade's blitz.

Some refugees said they had stopped to rest in the shelter of the woods after escaping from bombarded villages, but had to move on when shells crashed near them and fires broke out in the blistering August heat.

One UN agency said the Serbian attacks were depopulating the province. Another more than doubled - to 70,000 - its estimate of the number of people displaced by fighting over the past week. The continued violence blocked efforts to get aid through to Malisevo where many refugees had sought shelter in the woods after the attacks of recent days.



Ethnic Albanian refugees heading for Orshovac yesterday. Aid agencies were struggling to reach tens of thousands of refugees camped in the Kosovo woods. AP

"We cannot go into a battlefield," said Kris Janowski, of the UNHCR, who compared the situation in Kosovo to what happened in 1992 in Bosnia, when Serb forces embarked on a policy of trying to empty villages of their non-Serb populations.

"If this is an attempt to drive Kosovo Albanians out of Kosovo that would be total lunacy."

From the centre of Donje Prekaze, a village controlled by KLA fighters and under sniper fire from Serbian forces, huge plumes of smoke could be seen along the skyline near neighbouring Lausa. Guerrillas said

the area had been shelled by Serbian forces during the previous 18 hours.

The UNHCR has said the offensive leading up to the weekend fighting displaced as many as 30,000 people, taking the total number of refugees and displaced persons to 180,000 since February.

Chris Hill, a United States envoy, said Kosovo was on the "edge of a humanitarian catastrophe if refugees were unable

to return to their homes in the next week or two. "We have an extremely serious situation here. There have been tens of thousands of displaced people in recent weeks and the latest offensive against the KLA has caused even more people to flee from their homes."

The official Yugoslav news agency Tanjug reported that "terrorists" - its term for the KLA - had been "neutralised" at Lausa, west of the provincial capital Pristina. It was fortified and roads leading to it mined, Tanjug said.

The new drive by Serbian forces, which started on Sunday, comes despite a pledge by the Yugoslav President, Slobodan Milosevic, that a fierce offensive launched late in July was over.

Western powers have since the weekend been stepping up the pressure on Serbia to halt its offensive, with the US warning that Nato was fine-tuning plans

for the crisis which could be ready "very, very quickly".

However, there is no sign of a political consensus on how to respond to the crisis with European members of the Nato alliance demonstrably more cautious than the Americans.

Fearing a mass exodus of refugees, the European Union and the US have both demanded that Mr Milosevic stick to his promise to end the offensive against the separatists.

Vaclav Havel's illness worsens

By ADAM LEBOR in Budapest

THE CONDITION of the Czech President, Vaclav Havel, appeared to be deteriorating yesterday as he developed an irregular heartbeat and pneumonia.

Doctors were issuing regular bulletins on the health of the former dissident playwright turned politician as he hovered in and out of consciousness.

"I feared for him all night and this morning too, but now it seems to me he's doing better," said his wife, Dagmar, after she left his bedside at Prague's military hospital.

President Havel, who for many is a living symbol of the moral victory won in Eastern Europe by the collapse of Communism in 1989, has been ill since the winter of 1996.

Formerly a chain smoker, he has been hospitalised five times since December 1996 when doctors removed a third of his lung and a tumour.

The President's spokesman, Martin Kraft, said that the medical situation "is being worked on intensively".

Mr Havel has been in intensive care since he had surgery on 26 July, after being operated on for intestinal problems, when his lungs collapsed and doctors put him on a respirator.

Last month he appointed the first left-wing government in the Czech Republic since the Communists were ousted in the Velvet Revolution during the winter of 1989.

Power is now divided between the Social Democrats, led by the Prime Minister, Milos Zeman, and his predecessor, Vaclav Klaus, of the centre-



Havel: Pneumonia

right Civic Democratic Party. Although Mr Zeman and Mr Klaus are divided by ideology, their common hunger for power has brought them together in a marriage of convenience, to the disgust of many voters who are disillusioned with the widespread corruption that was allowed to flourish under the government of Mr Klaus, an arch-privatiser.

Both Mr Klaus and Mr Zeman are keen to curtail the power of the presidential office, but have been restrained by Mr Havel's moral stature as a former dissident, and the international respect he commands.

Czechs see their President as the designer of the Velvet Revolution, when the Communists peacefully handed over power after mass demonstrations, and as the man who steered the country through the transition from totalitarianism to democracy.

Blair visit to India and Pakistan on the cards

A CONTROVERSIAL visit to India and Pakistan by Prime Minister Tony Blair - with the bitter dispute between the two countries over Kashmir possibly on the agenda - should happen as soon as politically possible, according to Foreign Office sources.

The FO is understood to have approached the High Commissions in both countries asking when a suitable time for the visit might be. Diplomats are believed to have advised the Prime Minister's staff that the earliest possible time would be around New Year.

Any visit would be deeply controversial. Last year, during the Queen's visit to the sub-continent, Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary, caused a political storm when it was suggested he had offered to mediate over the Kashmir dispute.

Kashmir is India's only Muslim majority state and has been the cause of tension between the two countries since Partition in 1947.

India currently holds two thirds of the Himalayan state

By JASON BURKE in Lahore, Pakistan

and is adamantly opposed to any mediation and, according to analysts, keen to maintain the status quo. Pakistan, though, would welcome outside intervention.

For six days the two nations have been waging a fierce artillery duel along the "line of control" which splits Kashmir into Pakistan-held and Indian-held zones, although yesterday the firing appeared to have slackened.

The two countries have gone to war twice over the former kingdom. There are fears that the dispute could provoke a third, possibly nuclear, conflict.

In the most recent firing more than 90 people, mainly civilians, have been killed and hundreds more injured. Sustained firing by both Indian and Pakistani heavy artillery and mortars at both civilian and military targets has forced thousands of villagers on both sides of the border to flee their homes. Last night they re-



Indian gunners shell Pakistani-held areas of Kashmir

mained in make-shift accommodation waiting to return to their homes.

Mr Blair is known to want to reduce tensions between the two nations, although it is unclear whether any visit would involve diplomatic initiatives. Even the most uncontroversial visit to south Asia would be extremely well received by the

large Indian and Pakistani communities in the UK.

However, earlier this week Foreign Office minister Derek Fatchett went out of his way to call on Indian and Pakistani leaders to enter into dialogue, and Mr Blair is, according to diplomatic sources, keen to kick start talks.

The sources revealed that in

the immediate aftermath of nuclear tests by both India and Pakistan Mr Blair telephoned the leaders of both countries to urge them into dialogue, particularly over Kashmir.

"Britain would almost certainly be first choice for the Pakistanis in any mediation," one diplomatic source said. "Not least because we were involved in the whole mess at the start."

He added that any visit, however, would be impossible for several months. "With the nuclear tests, anything in the next three months is politically impossible and it takes at least three months to set up a tour like that."

A spokesman for the British High Commission in Islamabad said he was unaware of any plans for a visit. Contact by telephone or letter would be more likely, he said.

Nawaz Sharif, the prime minister of Pakistan, and Atal Vajpayee, the Indian prime minister, met for the first time since the nuclear tests at the annual conference of the South Asian Association for Region-

al Co-operation (SAARC) in Sri Lanka last month.

The dialogue between the two leaders was unconstructive, however, and the talks collapsed acrimoniously. The Indians said that the Pakistani government was being "neurotic" about Kashmir, although last night Vajpayee told parliament that he was interested in talking about peace.

Earlier this week the Indian newspapers said that the recent border clashes had been provoked to keep the issue alive in the minds of the international community.

Politicians in Islamabad have a genuine, and often voiced, fear that Vajpayee's newly elected Hindu nationalist government is committed to taking Pakistan-held territory by force and regularly accuse Delhi of deliberately raising tensions.

There have been regular clashes throughout the summer along the border between the two countries although the recent fighting is the most intense.

The artillery duels are often started by the Indians following attacks on their security forces by separatist guerrillas.

The guerrillas, trained by extremist Islamic groups in Pakistan with the tacit support of the government, regularly cross the border to attack Indian troops and the Indians allege, Hindu civilians.

Yesterday Indian authorities claimed that the militants were responsible for two further attacks. Eighteen people were killed in a village in Poonch district and seven wounded in a grenade attack in central Srinagar.

The groups, members of which were responsible for kidnapping Western hostages several years ago, are often recruited from experienced fighters who have fought in Algeria and Afghanistan.

Pakistan authorities deny their involvement in what the Indians call "warfare by proxy" and claim that Indian commandos regularly cross into their territory to plant bombs and attack civilians.

IN BRIEF

Berlin rescuers dig to find boy

RESCUE WORKERS dug layer by layer through the rubble of a Berlin apartment building yesterday, searching for a 13-year-old boy and up to five adults buried by a suspected gas explosion. The blast came at 6am in the western district of Steglitz.

Forest-fire crisis near Athens

AUTHORITIES DECLARED a state of emergency in areas near Athens as more than 1,000 firefighters and soldiers battled a forest fire for a second day. Evidence suggested the blaze could be the work of arsonists, officials said.

Forty die in Marxist attacks

IN COLOMBIA, Marxist rebels unleashed a wave of attacks overnight on Monday just before the new president takes office, leaving at least 40 people dead and scores wounded, authorities said. Two rebel groups - FARC and the ELN - were responsible, said the army, wrecking oil installations, attacking the country's main port, blasting an anti-narcotics base and blocking highways.

'Free Willy' star to go home

KEIKO, THE killer-whale star of *Free Willy*, will be airlifted back to Iceland on 9 September. The move is the next step in a plan to determine whether the long-captive whale can be trained to fend for himself in the North Atlantic.

KEN LIVINGSTONE

'The key problem for Labour is that by strengthening regional and city identities each area will start to fight for resources'

—THE WEDNESDAY REVIEW, PAGE 3—

Tutsis turn on Kabila

TROOPS LOYAL to President Laurent Kabila battled with rebellious Tutsi fighters yesterday at opposite ends of the country in an uprising aimed at toppling the president's 14-month-old regime.

Gunfire was reported in the eastern town of Bukavu near the border with Rwanda, said aid workers based there. A provincial official said that the rebels were in control of the town, although some reports indicated fighting there continued.

Banyamulenge Tutsis and Rwandan soldiers led the uprising against Kabila, accusing him of widespread corruption and government mismanagement.

In the southwestern village of Kitona, where rebel gunmen forced a hijacked private airplane to land, fighting was reported at the town's main military base, a government spokesman said.

It was unclear who was in control of the base in Kitona, but President Kabila has vowed to crush the uprising and called on his supporters for help.

"Be assured we will take weapons to swiftly end this re-

By KAMANGA MUTOND in Kinshasa, Congo

bellion," Cabinet minister Pierre Victor Mpozo said on state radio, quoting Mr Kabila.

The vice governor of South Kivu province, Benjamin Serukuta, said the Tutsi rebels had taken control of much of the province, including Bukavu and its airport.

"At the moment a large portion of the province is under the control of the army which is hostile to Kabila's regime," Mr Serukuta said.

Kivu region is divided into three provinces, including North Kivu, South Kivu and Maniema.

In the city of Goma, gunmen hijacked a private airplane and ordered the pilot to fly to the Atlantic coastline on the opposite side of the country, said Mr Kabila's spokesman Yverodia Abdoulaye Ndombasi. The hijacking was led by Banyamulenge ethnic fighters.

The Congolese airplane owned by the private airline CAL touched down in Kitona about 140 miles southwest of Kinshasa, said Mr Ndombasi.



Laurent Kabila: Vowed to crush the rebellion

Mr Kabila convened an emergency cabinet meeting yesterday to discuss the government's response to the rebellion in the east and to earlier gun battles in two military barracks in the capital.

"The government asks Congo's neighbours not to make the wrong decisions to fight," Mr Mpozo said in a radio broadcast following the meeting. The comment was aimed directly at neighbouring Rwanda, which Mr Kabila believes is behind the movement against his leadership. Rwandan fighters and Banyamulenge Tutsis

played a key role in helping Mr Kabila march to victory last year over longtime dictator Mobutu Sese Seko. Those same fighters today, however, appear to be moving to get rid of Mr Kabila.

A delicate ethnic and military alliance that helped thrust Mr Kabila - a one-time obscure Marxist rebel - into power 14 months ago is now unraveling.

Rwandan chief of staff General Kayumba Nyamwasa denied Rwanda was involved in the mutiny, but warned that the rebellion included some of the best soldiers in Mr Kabila's army.

Congo's Justice Minister Mwenze Kongolo said the government was preparing an armed response to the rebellion in Kivu region. The ethnic Tutsi population in the area has close links with Rwanda, while Mr Kabila's support and control of the region has faltered for months.

In the capital loyal troops continued to patrol city streets and man roadblocks. A dusk-to-dawn curfew was still in effect, but life in the city began to return to normal as abandoned streets began to fill again.

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PRESIDENT BILL Clinton suffered yet another legal setback yesterday when the chief justice of the Supreme Court ruled that two key White House lawyers must testify in the Monica Lewinsky case. The White House had petitioned Chief Justice William Rehnquist the previous evening in a last ditch attempt to block the subpoenas requiring the two men - the deputy White House counsel, Bruce Lindsey, and Lanny Breuer, special counsel - to appear before the grand jury this week.

The White House hoped to have the subpoenas suspended until the Supreme Court had met to consider the merits of its appeal. With the Supreme Court in recess, this would delay their testimony until October at the earliest. The White House has argued on Mr Lindsey's behalf that any requirement for him to testify would violate lawyer-client confidentiality. The appeal court, however, upheld a lower court judgment that conversations between the President and Mr Lindsey, an administration employee paid by the taxpayer, were not covered by lawyer-client privilege.

The legal tussle resembled that between the White House

BY MARY DEJEVSKY
in Washington

and the prosecutor's office over whether Secret Service agents should be obliged to testify in a case involving the President, and the arguments of principle may yet be tested at the Supreme Court when it reconvenes in the autumn. The White House insists that its chief interest is to clarify the legal position of the President in relation to White House security officers and lawyers, not to protect the President.

Following Mr Rehnquist's 11th-hour ruling yesterday, however, the White House moved to comply with the subpoenas. Mr Breuer turned up at the Washington District courthouse within the hour, illustrating that White House policy is - as before - to fight, but not ultimately to defy, the courts. Mr Lindsey's testimony is likely to be delayed for at least a week because he has only just been discharged from hospital after back surgery.

Both Mr Lindsey and Mr Breuer are potentially important witnesses. Mr Lindsey is a personal friend of Mr Clinton from his years in Arkansas and has frequently been seen at his



President Clinton heads for the Oval Office as the White House decides to continue the legal fight to block testimony in the Monica Lewinsky affair AP/Greg Gibson

side as the crisis over the President's relationship with Ms Lewinsky has played out. Mr Breuer has a lower profile, but is just as intimately associated with the investigation, as head of the White House damage control operation in the Lewinsky case.

One aspect that he could be called upon to clarify is how the Pentagon came to release details of an FBI file on Linda Tripp, the woman who triggered the investigation by passing secretly recorded tapes to the office of the independent prosecutor, Kenneth Starr. Shortly after Ms Tripp's move became public, a journalist for the *New Yorker* magazine obtained - and published - details of a minor criminal charge against Ms Tripp in her youth,

a charge that was subsequently dismissed. Ms Tripp had not declared the incident on her Pentagon application, and could have been sacked for non-disclosure.

While the current phase of Mr Starr's investigation deals with Mr Clinton's relationship with Ms Lewinsky - whether he lied about it under oath and prevailed upon her to lie about it - it is part of a broader criminal investigation which also includes the affair known as Fagate. This relates to how the White House obtained and used hundreds of confidential files obtained from the FBI early in Mr Clinton's presidency. The White House insists that the files were transferred by mistake and were not misused.

Meanwhile there was still no word on the likely timing of two crucial stages in the Lewinsky investigation: when Ms Lewinsky herself would be called to testify, and when the scientific tests on "that dress" - a dark blue dress belonging to Ms Lewinsky allegedly stained with semen - would be complete.

The prosecutor's office made known, however, that strict security was in force to prevent the test results being leaked to the media: the findings are to be conveyed direct to Mr Starr's office. Unconfirmed reports said that the dress could also be tested by an outside DNA laboratory, to confirm any FBI conclusions.

Godfrey Hodgson, *Review*, page 4

WORLD CRISES TAKE A BACK SEAT

PRESIDENT CLINTON has set aside time each day between now and 17 August to prepare for his appearance before the grand jury in the Monica Lewinsky case, the White House disclosed yesterday.

This is the first time that the White House has admitted publicly the extent to which the Lewinsky affair is affecting official presidential business, and it comes at a very awkward time for the US Administration.

At home, Mr Clinton's

attorney general, Janet Reno, is under mounting pressure from Congress and the FBI to commission a criminal investigation into suspect Democratic Party fund-raising.

Abroad, there are no fewer than three major international crises in the offing where the US would want to project its leadership. These are the fighting and refugee flight in Kosovo, the breakdown of weapons talks with Iraq, and the global impact of the Asian economic crisis,

in which US business interests are pressing for action.

While opinion polls find repeatedly that Americans are uninterested in and unworried about the President's relationship with Ms Lewinsky, television ratings and gross roots observation tell a different story.

Talk in the corridors at this week's annual meeting of state governors in Milwaukee is said to be only about the President and Ms Lewinsky.

Yangtze sweeps away soldiers battling floods

BY TERESA POOLE
in Peking

AN UNKNOWN number of soldiers are reported to have been on a water-logged dyke which suddenly collapsed in Hubei province, the worst breach in the flood defences so far reported in China's flood crisis.

Conflicting details of what happened in Jiayu county on Saturday emerged yesterday, with one unconfirmed Chinese newspaper report saying that 400 soldiers were swept away when the dyke gave way, trapping 50,000 local residents. No death toll was given, but a Hong Kong human rights group said that nine bodies had been retrieved.

The devastation caused by record water levels on the Yangtze - the highest in 44 years - shows no sign of abating. Two days of rains in the higher reaches have created another flood crest which is moving downstream, and typhoon Otto is approaching China's eastern shores. The official Xinhua news agency said the Yangtze was threatening its embankments in 3,200 places, and 1,800 of these possible breaches were "major".

Accurate information on



Hunan province yesterday Reuters

specific situations is hard to come by. The *Yongcheng Evening News* report about Jiayu, a rural area about 40 miles from Wuhan city, received no mention on the main state television news last night, which instead devoted several reports to showing how Communist Party members, the police, the army and the air force were battling against the floods.

It has also been some days since the Chinese government updated the flood-death figures. Most foreign journalists have been refused permission to travel to the region, and last week

an ABC television crew from the United States was detained in the city of Wuhan for trying to report on the flood situation.

The situation in Jiayu county may be clarified in the next few days. In Hong Kong, the Information Centre of Human Rights and Democratic Movement in China said 150 soldiers and an unknown number of villagers were swept away and large numbers of people were still missing.

It was not until yesterday that the *China Daily* reported that a section of the dyke at Dongting Lake, Hunan province,

had broken nine days earlier, flooding the homes of more than 100,000 villagers in Anxiang. "They are stranded on the dyke without adequate food and drinking water, and can do nothing but pray," said the newspaper. It added that medical stations have been set up in the battle to stop epidemics breaking out.

Representatives from the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies have visited the Dongting area and estimated that up to 300,000 people were living in plastic and bamboo tents on the dykes. "Where people have been for a long time there was a lot of despair and resignation," said Arne Jacobson. Some farmers have been camped out for six weeks.

So far the major dykes along the Yangtze have been holding, but secondary levees are starting to prove vulnerable. Anti-flood officials are having to make difficult decisions to abandon certain smaller dykes, allowing them to breach in order to take the pressure off industrial centres. The Hubei authorities, for instance, gave up on 11 small dykes to divert floodwaters to protect Wuhan city. The resulting flood damage was estimated at \$30m.

BY DAVID USBORNE
in Buford, Texas

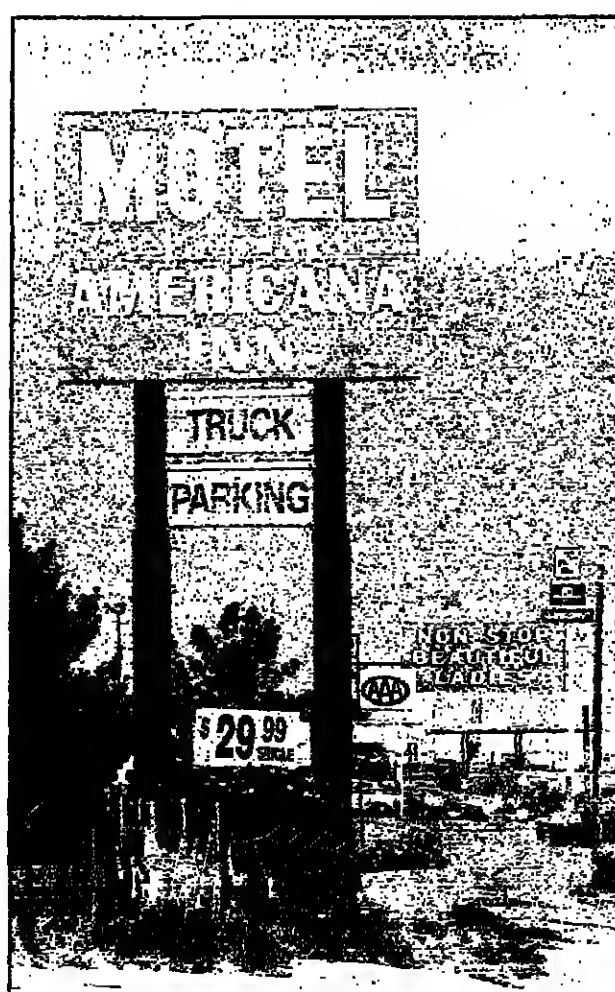
ROLL INTO Buford, a town that straddles the Interstate 10, about 40 miles east of El Paso in the Texas desert and there is no mistaking you have arrived. "NON-STOP BEAUTIFUL LADIES" flickers one sign in garish red neon, perched high on a giant pylon. "ADULT BOOKS" says another across the highway.

Most towns would announce themselves a little differently. Perhaps a notice about church services, about the proud record of its high school sports teams, or information about a twinning with some village in Europe. Buford does not bother with any of that. There is no school and the only church is a mobile one - a converted trailer parked in a petrol station courtesy of Truck-Stop Ministries Inc of Atlanta.

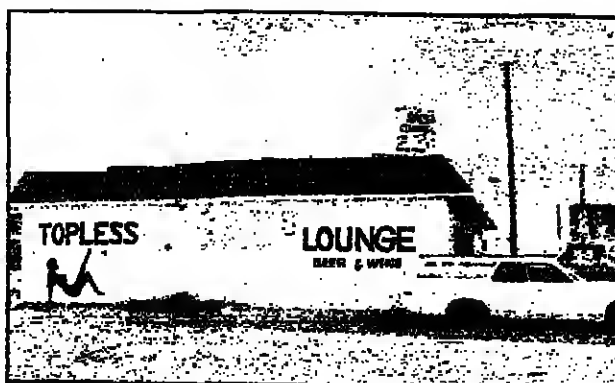
Buford, in other words, is a place long on carnal distractions, making it massively popular with the hundreds of lorry drivers who pull in here every night, and very short indeed on civic niceties. For that, it may be about to pay a high price. If the fathers of the surrounding El Paso county have their way, Buford may be headed for the Texas history books. They want this dump gone.

Nobody is about to send in the bulldozers (although the landscape might benefit from it). But, in its latest manoeuvre to impose its own tough ordinances on the fast-multiplying sex businesses here, the county is moving to have Buford declared null and void. It can do so, it says, because even though Buford was incorporated as a city in 1962, it never held elections to choose local officials as is required by law.

Notice of the town's threatened extinction is in a copy of the writ from the El Paso district attorney's office on a notice board inside Petro, biggest of Buford's petrol stations. The action is titled, "The State of Texas v the Unknown Pretend Mayor of the Purported City of Buford". It argues that since Buford has never had any elected officials, it does not, in



The tacky welcome to Buford, Texas, Jack Kurtz



fact, exist. The writ concludes: "As the incorporation of the purported City of Buford appears to be void, the Unknown Returned Buford officials are subject to being removed from their offices, and the franchise by one resident as a 'rickety titty bar' and the five or six

other sex establishments. The battle over Buford began in March, when police raided the Green Door and the Red Parrot and arrested several workers. The owners were told they were in violation of El Paso county codes that forbid sex businesses from operating within 1,000 feet of homes, schools, churches and of each other. The owners said that, because Buford was incorporated as a city, the codes did not apply to them.

Hence last week's county writ. The assistant county attorney, Edie Castello, said: "If the city of Buford is declared void, then we have every right to enforce the law in this area. If not, if we don't have the authority, it will be open season for strip clubs to open over there."

Doo Randall, the minister who holds services every Sunday morning for a handful of drivers in his lorry trailer, welcomes the initiative. It is not just the sex shops, he says, but the spread of prostitution in the parking lots. "A lot of them set it up with the ladies on their CB radios before they get here," he said. "We are surrounded by garbage."

In the sex shops the mood is defiant. "They don't want us around," growls Ernie, the manager of the Green Door that offers "California Style Private Booths" for movie viewing. "We declared a township and I don't know if they can just wipe us out. We are out of the way and hidden here, so I don't see we are doing harm."

The owners have hired a lawyer, Sergio Gonzalez, who says what the county is doing is itself illegal. He has put up a case that for the city to be de-incorporated, approval would first have to be granted by 51 per cent of its 50-odd permanent residents in a town referendum.

There is one other possible course of action for Buford - to do what it was supposed to do 36 years ago and actually hold those elections before the county can enforce its writ. But who, one might ask, would want to be mayor of a place such as this? Ernie for mayor? Not even he is interested.

Beaten gendarme comes out of coma

DANIEL NIVEL, the gendarme beaten almost to death by German soccer hooligans during the World Cup, has recovered consciousness for the first time in six weeks.

Mr Nivel, 43, still has extreme difficulty in speaking and remains partly-paralysed on his right side. But he has emerged from his coma, is able to sit up in a chair for several hours a day and no longer needs mechanical help with his breathing.

Doctors in Lille have been surprised and delighted by the strength of his recovery and say that he may leave hospital for a physical re-education centre in the next few weeks.

"No further neurological

BY JOHN LICHFIELD
in Paris

surgery is contemplated at present," a statement from the Lille regional hospital said yesterday. Mr Nivel, a section leader in a gendarmerie flying squad, was attacked by 20 German ultra-right wing thugs before the Germany-Yugoslavia game in Lens on 21 June.

According to a re-creation of the incident published this week by the German magazine *Der Spiegel*, he was initially struck on the head by a metal advertising panel. He was then kicked in the chest and repeatedly beaten over the head with his own tear-gas grenade launcher.

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Shaken UN envoy leaves Baghdad

A RENEWED crisis in relations between Iraq and the United Nations appeared imminent yesterday after the sudden collapse of talks between the two sides in Baghdad on the elimination of Iraq's weapons of mass destruction.

Richard Butler, the Australian diplomat who is in charge of the destruction of Iraq's non-conventional weapons,

BY PATRICK COCKBURN
in Baghdad

ons, abandoned his three-day visit to Baghdad early yesterday after two acrimonious meetings with Iraqi leaders. He is expected to address the UN Security Council tomorrow.

The cause of the breakdown of the talks is Iraq's insistence that it has eliminated all its

biological, chemical and nuclear weapons as well as the means to manufacture and deliver them. This is flatly contradicted by Mr Butler.

Tariq Aziz, the Iraqi deputy prime minister, ended his meeting with Mr Butler by accusing him and his team of wanting at all costs to maintain sanctions which will not be lifted so long as Iraq has weapons of mass

destruction. Mr Aziz said that the team had not found any evidence that Iraq had non-conventional weapons, despite close monitoring and repeated searches of Iraqi facilities over four years.

In the last crisis with Iraq, in February, the United States and Britain found limited support in the Security Council for taking military action against

Iraq. Despite strenuous diplomatic efforts they were unable to rally to their side the Arab states who fought against Iraq in the Gulf war.

Iraq felt it had succeeded in breaking out of its political isolation, but sanctions have continued. Baghdad appears determined to risk another confrontation with the UN in order to get sanctions finally lifted.

Mr Butler looked shaken after his last meeting with Mr Aziz and other Iraqi leaders in the Foreign Ministry in Baghdad. He cancelled a morning press conference yesterday, saying "my duty is to report what has happened to the Security Council and I will leave for New York today".

The Iraqi case was somewhat damaged in the summer when tests in an American laboratory of missile warhead fragments collected by Mr Butler's team showed traces of VX nerve gas.

Iraq demanded fresh tests in laboratories in neutral countries and these are currently being carried out in France and Switzerland.

Although another crisis between the UN and Iraq over

non-conventional weapons and sanctions was always likely, it had been expected to come in October, when Mr Butler presents his six-monthly report on Iraq's compliance with the Gulf war ceasefire resolutions on non-conventional weapons.

Mr Butler's decision to return to New York yesterday shows that the confrontation will come more immediately.

A lesson in how not to control Iraq

THE LETTERS on the crumbling white stone of her tomb in the little cemetery beside Iraq's Ministry of Industry are hard to decipher. When you pick them out they read Gertrude Bell. Bell was Oriental Secretary to the High Commission for Iraq, and the most famous British traveller and writer about the Arab world before T.E. Lawrence.

She died in Baghdad in 1926 from an overdose of sleeping tablets, though it was never clear if she took them accidentally or on purpose. She is, going by the number of biographies written about her, the one half-remembered representative of the British Mandate over Iraq - established following the defeat of Turkey in Mesopotamia in 1918, after four years of fighting in which the British army lost 100,000 men.

Not far away from Gertrude Bell's grave is a tombstone to Charles Cowley, whom the inscription says was killed on 26 April 1916, in an attempt by the steamer *Juhar* to force its way up the Tigris to relieve the British garrison besieged at Kut. In fact Cowley's end was a little nastier than the tombstone reveals and even more dramatic.

Born in Baghdad, Cowley, along with his family, ran the Euphrates and Tigris Steam Navigation Company. In the last days of the siege of Kut, one of the great British disasters of the First World War, he volunteered to use his knowledge of

BY PATRICK COCKBURN

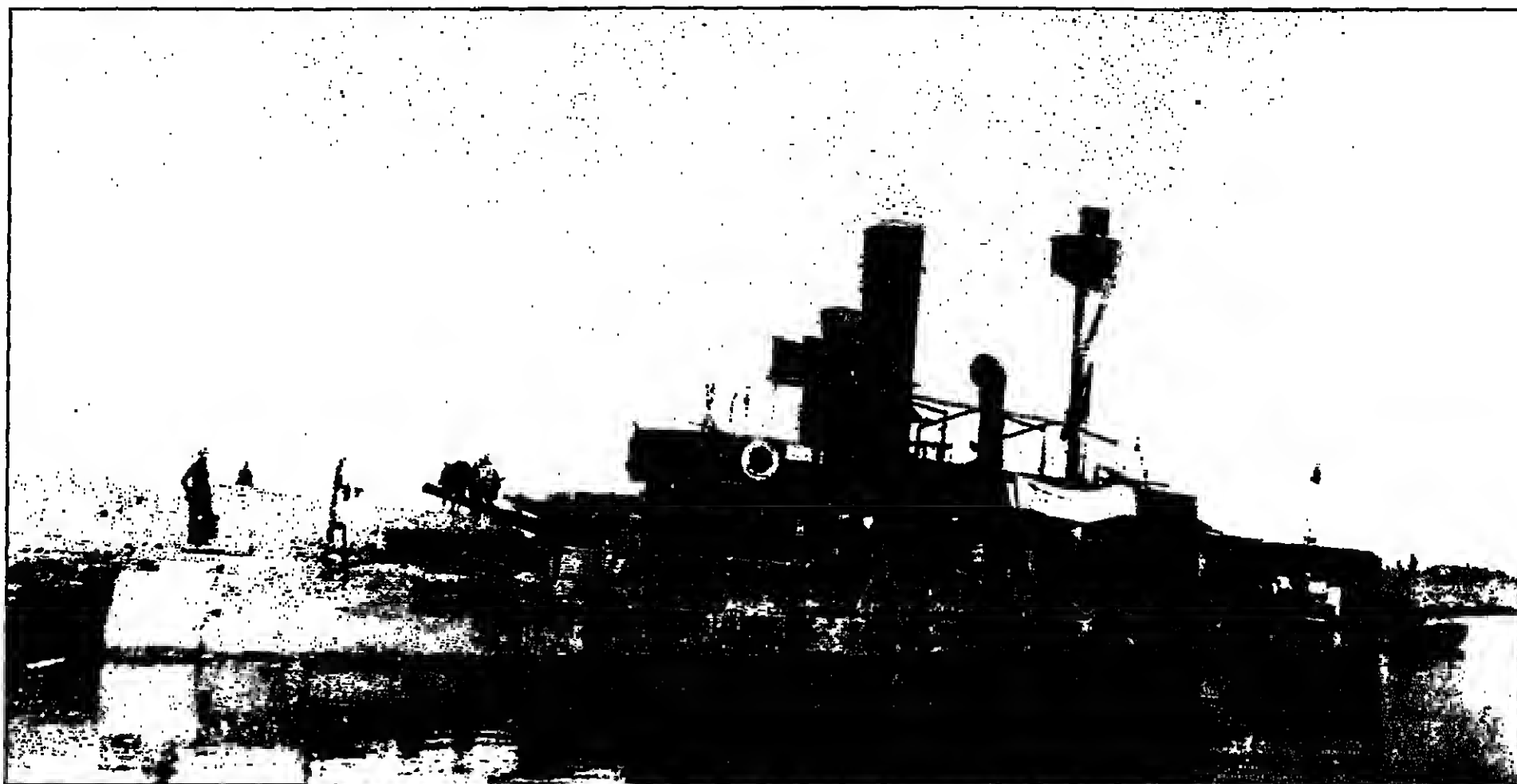
the shifting shoals of the Tigris to take the *Juhar*, a steamship protected with steel plating and loaded with 270 tons of supplies, to try to break through to Kut. This was doubly dangerous for him as the Turks considered him a renegade because of his long residence in Baghdad.

The *Juhar* got close to Kut, but the Turks had stretched a hawser across the river which fouled the ship's propeller. The *Juhar* drifted towards the bank where it was stormed by Turkish soldiers. The captain and most of the crew were killed. Cowley was taken prisoner and murdered on the riverbank.

These casualties of Britain's moment in Iraq have greater significance than mere Imperial nostalgia. The British hegemony in the wake of the First World War victory in many ways resembles the control exercised by the United Nations since the Gulf war. The bureaucracy administering the embargo on Iraq from New York controls the Iraq economy and the standard of living of every Iraqi.

The Canal hotel, the UN headquarters in east Baghdad, plays a similar role to the old British High Commission. The UN agencies around the capital have extraordinary power. They largely control the oil-food plan under which Iraq can export some oil, but expenditure is controlled by the UN.

In the zones where Iraqis are



An armoured steamer in Mesopotamia in 1916 similar to the *Juhar* which tried, in vain, to relieve the British garrison besieged by the Turks at Kut. Hulton Getty

not allowed to fly, the UN's Food and Agriculture Organisation has to hire Bulgarian pilots to fly ageing Polish-built helicopters to spray the crops.

Britain, and the UN 70 years later, suffer from the same problems in Iraq. Both wanted to exercise semi-colonial control on the cheap.

Gertrude Bell successfully advocated importing Faisal I, son of the Sherif of Mecca, whom few Iraqis had ever heard of, to be the country's first Arab king. British troops were withdrawn, but he was

backed by RAF bases east of Baghdad and in Basra.

In fact, the UN role in Iraq is reaching a crisis for reasons little understood outside the country. The UN thought that if enough food and medicines were distributed to fend off famine and epidemics all would be well. But the indices of infant mortality and malnutrition have scarcely declined.

This is because the Iraqi infrastructure is collapsing. This year there are power cuts of six to ten hours even in central Baghdad. The Mesopotamian

plain is flat, so without electricity, water and sewage cannot be pumped. Extra food and medicine make no difference if Iraqis are drinking increasingly polluted water.

In the Iraqi countryside the breakdown in electricity supply is even worse than in Baghdad. Farmers are said to be doing well out of the present crisis because the government is paying high prices for their crops.

We went to Babil province, 80 miles from Baghdad, to see Sheikh Hatem al-Jerjari, who farms 1,500 acres from a brick

fortress built by his grandfather. But even Sheikh Hatem admitted that times were bad. The one topic of conversation in Iraq is the terrible summer heat, far hotter than usual this year. He had moved into a house in a nearby town "because at least here there is five hours electricity a day". In the country there is just one hour and sometimes nothing.

Because of the heat, Baghdad functions mostly at night. From nine in the evening the pavements are thronged. Iraqis are deeply social and like eat-

ing out, despite sanctions. Many restaurants have closed, particularly on Abu Nawwas Street beside the Tigris where Iraqis once used to eat river fish baked on an open fire.

But a new restaurant quarter has opened up at a village called Kereit, on the river north of Baghdad. Some of the restaurants are on the river bank, others are on pontoons floating on the Tigris. Even here, every half-hour the electricity would go off, plunging the riverbank into darkness.

In their different ways, both

Gertrude Bell and the UN got it wrong. The British hegemony in Iraq ended in 1958 when the royal family, tainted in Iraqi eyes as British puppets, were shot down by rebel army officers as they fled their burning palace.

The predominant influence of the UN Security Council over Iraqi affairs may also be withering. It has always required a degree of Iraqi co-operation. The present disaster and the apparently endless continuation of sanctions means Iraq has little left to lose.

Cops get their skates on

AMERICAN
TIMES
MIAMI

ON MIAMI BEACH, they're known as the Blade-Runner cops. They ride in-line skates, pack heat and have become the second most photographed subject on Miami Beach. (The first remains the beach-front mansion of the late Italian fashion designer Gianni Versace, where busloads of tourists stop to take pictures of the steps where he was shot dead a year ago).

So far, in their first year, the skating police have not had to fire their Sig-Sauer automatic pistols. Even their collapsible batons and pepper-spray grenades have rarely been used other than to impress inquisitive media types.

Secretly hoping for a major bank robbery, or a shoot-out with a Colombian cocaine gang, I joined a two-man patrol of the Miami Beach skater unit the other day. Well, when I say "joined", I didn't trust myself to keep up with them on skates so I huffed and puffed around on foot to try to get a feel for their job.

I got my first clue even before our rendezvous when I stopped in at Jeffrey's Coffee Shop in the renowned Lincoln Road pedestrian zone, a skaters' mecca. Over thick black espresso, a regular policeman - if you call patrolling on a push bike "regular" - Officer Wally Neumann, warned me not to expect any shoot-outs or high-speed chases with the skating cops.

"It's a public relations exercise," he scoffed. "These guys don't go after drug dealers. That's in the movies. They've got to take the skates off to arrest people. If there's a guy who's inebriated, you're not going to tackle him with a skater. Look, I'm a cop arresting you. If I take my eyes off you for a second, I've lost 50 per cent of my advantage." I was about to ask Wally



Fully kitted out for the beach-police patrol

how he arrested people from his bike when my two contacts clattered into the coffee shop in white shirts, tight navy shorts, elbow-and-knee-pads and gloves, wearing their skates and weighed down by 25 pounds of equipment round their waists. They were Officers Alfredo Amaya, 34, and Scott Lowe, 46, and six foot five. "Without his skates on, he's only four foot five," quipped Alfredo.

Scott, then on a bike, was the first officer on the scene when Versace was shot by the gay serial killer Andrew Cunanan in July last year. Both are 10-year veterans of the Miami Beach bicycle unit and still get on their bikes several days a week to chase bad guys - mostly drug dealers - through the back alleys between the pastel-coloured beachfront Art Deco hotels.

First, they demonstrated how they could flick off the wheels and chassis of their special Hypno skates in less than a second, leaving them wearing a comfortable hiking boot. Then they showed me their equipment, the 9mm Sig-Sauer, 50 rounds of ammunition, a collapsible baton, pepper-spray, radio, beeper, sunblock and umpteen other necessities.

"You don't want to beat people with the asp so you just give them a little spray in the face and that's the end of it. It's a lot more user-friendly," said Scott.

They always patrol in twos

and one usually removes his wheels when they apprehend a subject. As we set off in 90-degree-plus heat, Scott said: "After an hour, you're soaked down to your underwear. We make a lot of water stops."

"They don't really call us in for things like a bank robbery in progress. It's true it's largely PR. We stop people skateboarding here on Lincoln Road, for example, where it's banned. We spend a lot of time chasing the 'aggressive skaters' - kids who like to grind."

"Grinding," I found out, means skating down handrails, using such techniques as the Royale, the Fahrvergnugen or the Fishbrain, depending on which part of the foot is used to balance. The cops' first stop was to check on Bob Kunst, a local gay-rights activist who was staging a one-man demonstration: "Caymans, Kiss My Ass," said his placard, a reference to the fact that the Cayman Islands refused to let a cruise shipload of American gays disembark earlier this year. Kunst was within his rights and the cops rolled on.

Wherever the pair skated, they got some form of reaction. Tourists snapped pictures, some shouted "you're doing a great job", not a few smirked. The police spent most of their time yelling at skaters to "keep to the left" or simply chatting to tourists. Alfredo tended to fall behind, once to chat to a beautiful shop assistant from Puerto

Rico, another time to ask a Brazilian beauty in a thong bikini, showering on the edge of the beach, whether she was enjoying her holiday.

They demonstrated their tougher side when they stopped to check on Daniel Gonzalez, 24, sipping a beer in a shop doorway on Española Way. Drinking in the street is illegal.

Scott flicked off his wheels for greater balance. Alfredo crushed the beer can with his wheels, telling me Gonzalez was a serial car thief. After ordering him to remove his sneakers and "adopt the position", Scott asked him how many times he had been arrested - "more than five? more than 10?". "More than five, less than 10," Gonzalez replied. "What happened to your head?" asked Alfredo, pointing to a deep scar across the young man's cropped hair. "Somebody dropped a bottle on it," he said.

They let him go but told him to move on. "There's a lot of male prostitutes around here," Scott told him. "This is no place to hang out." Gonzalez looked off. "He was probably waiting to break into a car," Alfredo told me. "We've caught him with pliers before. Or he might have been employed to do heat runs." A heat runner, I learned, is someone who follows a potential drug purchaser to check he's not being watched by police before the drug deal goes down.

The only other thing bordering on excitement was when the partners ordered a group of down-and-out Cuban exiles to move from the grass opposite the Versace mansion, basing their order on the fact that the group had a dog without a leash. "Otherwise, we can't touch them. If they're homeless, they can sleep where they want. There's hundreds of them on the beach at night," said Scott. "If they shower naked, if they pee in public, we can't touch them. We're told it's a life-sustaining misdemeanor."

PHIL DAVISON

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BUSINESS

BRIEFING

Goldman tops Euro M&A league

THE US investment bank, Goldman Sachs, was the top adviser on cross-border European mergers and acquisitions in the first half of 1998, according to the magazine *Acquisitions Monthly*. Goldman advised on 23 deals worth a total of £15.8bn during the period - which coincided with a fierce internal debate over whether to float the 129-year-old partnership, said the magazine. Goldman, which decided it will sell shares in the autumn, was involved in the two highest cross-border acquisitions of European firms so far this year: the £7.9bn takeover of Belgium's Generale de Banque by Fortis, and the £6.1bn acquisition of France's AGF by Germany's Allianz.

Cassidy the victor in court battle



DENIS CASSIDY (left) the former chairman of the Liberty retail group, yesterday won a High Court battle with the company over his contract. Mr Cassidy, who was ousted from the company in December after a bitter battle with the founding Liberty family, has been awarded a total of £247,000 for the settlement of the contract dispute. He could secure a further £50,000 for his outstanding bonuses and another £50,000 in legal fees.

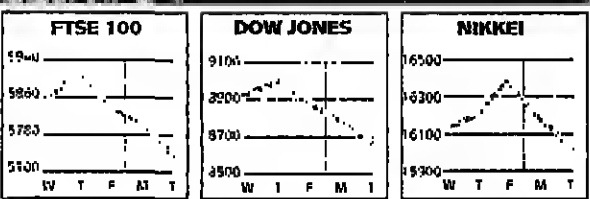
Mr Cassidy took action against Liberty in April for refusing to honour his contract. He sued for £135,125 in lieu of 12 months' notice plus other additional sums. The Court dismissed Liberty's application to defend the claim and ordered the company to pay Mr Cassidy's legal costs. If the two sides now fail to settle there will be a further hearing to determine damages.

Tesco extends 24-hour shopping

THE SUPERMARKET chain Tesco yesterday pledged to create 600 new jobs by more than doubling the number of stores it keeps open 24 hours a day. From next week 63 Tesco stores in the UK will be open non-stop from Monday morning until Saturday night, compared with 26 at the moment. The company said this meant 20 million people would be within a short drive of its all-night branches.

The move follows research showing that more people work late hours and need the convenience of being able to shop through the night. Chief executive Terry Leahy said Tesco was "responding to the large-scale changes in British society". Tesco's 24-hour branches only open from 10am to 4pm on Sundays to comply with trading laws.

STOCK MARKETS



Index	Close	Change	Change (%)	52 wk high	52 wk low	Yield (%)
FTSE 100	5736.10	-73.60	-1.27	6183.70	4382.80	3.64
FTSE 250	5444.90	-3.00	-0.05	5970.50	4428.30	3.67
FTSE 350	2764.50	-29.20	-1.04	3269.10	2141.80	3.64
FTSE All Share	2994.05	-27.04	-0.92	3269.52	2100.39	3.63
FTSE SmallCap	3257.30	-3.00	-0.12	3723.80	2187.90	3.28
FTSE Elected	1324.50	-4.20	-0.31	1512.10	1235.20	3.53
FTSE AIM	1059.90	0.70	0.07	1146.90	969.90	1.25
FTSE EBL00	1048.79	-3.52	-0.34			
Dow Jones	8672.68	-113.80	-1.30	9367.84	6971.32	1.69
Nikkei	16023.58	-161.50	-0.98	19830.49	14488.21	0.95
Hang Seng	7580.80	78.03	1.03	16820.31	7351.68	5.38
Dax	5756.20	-2.57	-0.05	6217.83	3467.24	2.79

INTEREST RATES

Index	Close	Change	Change (%)	52 wk high	52 wk low	Yield (%)
UK 10 YEAR GILT	5.84					
US LONG BOND	5.77					
SHORT STERLING	7.51					
UK 10 YEAR GILT	5.84					
US LONG BOND	5.77					
SHORT STERLING	7.51					

Index	Close	Change	Change (%)	52 wk high	52 wk low	Yield (%)
UK	7.75	0.56	7.81	0.26	5.70	1.36
US	5.69	-0.03	5.81	-0.19	5.44	-0.78
Japan	0.64	0.04	0.66	-0.07	1.32	-0.85
Germany	3.57	0.30	3.80	0.23	4.60	-1.05

CURRENCIES

Index	Close	Change	Change (%)	52 wk high	52 wk low	Yield (%)
S/E	1.61					
D/E	2.14					
W/E	2.17					
S/E	1.61					
D/E	2.14					
W/E	2.17					

Index	Close	Change	Change (%)	52 wk high	52 wk low	Yield (%)
POUND	1.6330	+0.45c	1.6283			
DOLLAR	2.9064	0.0007	1.0368			
Yen	236.56	+1.03	132.74			
£ index	104.30	+0.40	105.30			
5 Index	114.40	-0.20	106.20			

OTHER INDICATORS

Index	Close	Change	Change (%)	52 wk high	52 wk low	Yield (%)
Brent Oil (\$)	12.08	0.14	1.17			
Gold (\$)	266.75	3.80	323.95			
Silver (\$)	5.39	-0.02	4.46			
Base Rates	7.50	6.75				

TOURIST RATES

Index	Close	Change	Change (%)	52 wk high	52 wk low	Yield (%)
Australia (\$)	2.5935					
Austria (schillings)	19.74					
Belgium (francs)	58.02					
Canada (\$)	2.3981					
Cyprus (pounds)	0.8248					
Denmark (krone)	10.78					
Finland (markka)	8.6039					
France (francs)	9.4303					
Germany (marks)	2.8209					
Greece (drachma)	465.52					
Hong Kong (\$)	12.21					
Ireland (pounds)	1.1155					
India (rupees)	63.57					
Israel (shekels)	5.4736					
Italy (lira)	2.786					
Japan (yen)	231.11					
Malaysia (ringgits)	6.4233					
Malta (lira)	0.6151					
Mexican (nuevo peso)	13.19					
Netherlands (guilders)	3.1649					
New Zealand (\$)	3.0450					
Norway (krone)	12.05					
Portugal (escudos)	284.78					
Saudi Arabia (rials)	5.9239					
Singapore (\$)	2.6715					
Spain (pesetas)	238.23					
South Africa (rand)	9.5498					
Sweden (krone)	12.69					
Switzerland (francs)	2.3769					
Thailand (bahts)	59.98					
Turkey (liras)	42.5364					
USA (\$)	1.5881					

MPC urged to hold rates as risk of recession grows

TWO of the UK's leading forecasters yesterday painted a bleak picture of the country's economic prospects, urging the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) to hold interest rates when it meets today.

The London Business School (LBS) said the government's failure to co-ordinate monetary and fiscal policy had increased the risks of a hard landing in the UK. The forecasters called the decision to put up interest rates in June "at best unnecessary, and at worst dangerous, risking pushing the economy towards a recession."

By LEA PATERSON

Separately, Oxford Economic Forecasting (OEF) predicted that the manufacturing recession would deepen, and said the likely length and depth of the recession depended on the actions of the MPC.

Growing concerns about the risk of a recession in the UK have prompted speculation that the MPC will keep interest rates on hold this week for the second consecutive month. However, strong growth in UK earnings, a bout of relative

weakness in the pound and a buoyant service sector all mean a rate rise remains a possibility, City economists said.

Stephen Lewis, chief economist at Monument Derivatives, said: "It will not be easy for the MPC to decide what it should do this week. The key question for the committee is how far it can rely on the looming recession to push up unemployment and curb pay settlements."

OEF predicted that the UK services sector would grow at a robust 4 per cent in 1998, but that the growth rate should slow to 2.2 per cent in 1999. The

outlook for manufacturing, by contrast, was far more gloomy, with output predicted to fall by 0.5 per cent this year.

OEF said: "The question is no longer whether the manufacturing sector will suffer recession, but rather how deep and long-lasting it will be." The LBS predicted UK economic growth would slow to 2.2 per cent this year and to 1.3 per cent in 1999, before picking up again in 2000.

It said there was no need for another rate rise, and argued that the MPC's actions would cause growth to slow by more

than necessary to meet the inflation target. However, the LBS stopped short of forecasting recession, and said talk of "full-blown recession" was "alarmist". Stephen Byers, the new Treasury Chief Secretary, said: "The government's new framework for monetary and fiscal policy provides a platform for long-term economic stability and an end to the cycle of boom and bust. It is because of the tough decisions taken by this government that we have the necessary slowing of growth to get the economy back on track."

A separate study released yesterday gave a more upbeat assessment of the economy.

The latest BDO quarterly business trends report found that the UK was heading for a "soft" or at worst a "bumpy" landing, and predicted that inflationary pressures could start to build towards the end of the year.

Sterling hardened against the mark to close at DM2.91, up more than a penny on yesterday's close.

The FTSE 100 closed down 73.6 points at 5736.1, the lowest close since June.

NatWest soars after surprise leap in profits

By LEA PATERSON

NATIONAL Westminster Bank reported an unexpectedly sharp rise in first-half profits, sending its shares soaring by more than 10 per cent.

The bank - whose reputation has suffered in recent years following a disastrous foray into investment banking - said pre-tax profits in the six months to June increased by almost 50 per cent to £967m.

Earnings rose in all the group's core activities, although analysts said performance in Treasury operations and in the UK retail bank were particularly strong.

Lord Alexander, NatWest chairman, said the figures could "properly be described as a turnaround", and that the improvement reflected "the skill and the dedication of the team". Derek Wanless, the bank's chief executive, called the figures "a good start, but only a start," and promised continued strong growth in the years ahead.

Brokers had been predicting NatWest would bounce back from a poor 1997, when it was dogged by difficulties at NatWest Markets, its investment banking arm, much of which has now been sold or restructured.

However, the City was surprised by the speed of the turnaround, and most brokers said they would be upgrading profit forecasts. Shares in NatWest rose 107p to close at 1146p.

John Leonard, banking analyst at Salomon Smith Barney, said: "The figures were certainly a positive surprise for all of us. They're a good, clean set of numbers, which have been a long time coming."

Despite a £65m pension mis-selling charge and an increased investment spend of £43m, profits at NatWest UK, the core retail banking business, were up 16 per cent before tax to £553m. Coutts, whose performance last year was hindered by problem loans in the US, reported a 61 per cent rise in pre-tax profits to £111m. Greenwich NatWest (GNW), the renamed investment banking business, made a £1m pre-tax loss, although this figure includes losses made in the first half on discontinued activities.

The bank failed to clarify fully the issue of management succession, which has been the subject of intense speculation in recent months. Lord Alexander confirmed that he intended to stand down next year, but refused to be drawn on the question of potential successors.

Lord Blyth, chief executive of Boots and a non-executive director at the bank, is widely expected to succeed Lord Alexander. However, Lord Blyth's current commitments could mean the bank has to appoint an interim chairman.

The interim dividend was increased by 11 per cent to 11.8p.

Outlook, page 15



The refurbished Odeon in Leicester Square, London, which opens tomorrow: Chief executive Andrew Teare said Rank will focus on core businesses such as cinemas

Struggling Rank plans more sell-offs

RANK, the Hard Rock Cafe and Odeon Cinemas group, is to sell off some of its smaller businesses and concentrate on its main brands in an attempt to reverse its flagging share price.

Rank has already put its Butlins hotels on the block and is planning to sell its US holiday businesses. It is also keen to exit from the Universal Studios theme park in Florida,

By PETER THAL LARSEN

which it is currently building in a 50 per cent joint venture with Seagram, the US music and film group.

The move is the latest attempt by Andrew Teare, Rank's under-fire chief executive, to revive the group's lacklustre performance. "There will always be disposals as we continue to tighten our focus," he said.

ue to tighten our focus," he said.

"This is a new policy for Rank." Mr Teare yesterday received the backing of Sir Denys Henderson, Rank's chairman, who told analysts the entire board supported the strategy. However, Mr Teare's plans failed to enthuse investors, who marked the shares down 19p to 309p.

The figures, which showed operating profits rising 12 per cent to £101m, were hit by the refurbishment of the Butlins holiday camps and the re-vamping of some of the Odeon cinemas. "The figures were pretty unimpressive," one analyst said. "If someone is going to bid they will be welcomed in."

US venture capital funds have been considering mounting a break-up bid for Rank.

Investment, page 19

Regus chief is worth £250m

The entrepreneur who runs Regus, the company that provides temporary office space to travelling executives, was worth more than £250m yesterday after the company received a £100m (£80m) cash injection.

Mark Dixon, who founded Regus in 1989, has sold a 17.5 per cent in the company to a consortium of investors led by Bankers Trust, the US investment bank, in return for £100m.

Details of the deal were not made clear but a spokesman insisted that, although Mr Dixon will pocket some of the proceeds, the "substantial majority" of the funds were for expanding the business into Asia and the United States.

By PETER THAL LARSEN

The move is a first step towards preparing the company for a flotation within the next three years.

The other members of the consortium include Bankers Trust subsidiaries BT Alex. Brown and BT Capital Partners, plus US-based real estate fund Apollo Real Estate and Pelham Partners, Apollo's European affiliate.

Regus opened its first serviced office suite in Brussels in 1989.

Mr Dixon opened the centres in the belief that businessmen would want to rent office space in the same way as they rent hotel rooms.



Entrepreneur and Regus founder, Mark Dixon

The company now has 150 centres in 29 countries around the world, and hopes to open its 200th centre later this year.

Its customers include Microsoft, Midland Bank, KLM and Marks & Spencer.

Laporte bid for Inspec may unleash wave of mergers

NIGEL COPE Associate City Editor

LAPORTE, the speciality chemicals group, is in discussions with rival chemicals company Inspec that are expected to lead to an agreed takeover deal valuing Inspec at £598m.

Inspec shares rose 36 per cent to 332.5p compared to the 340p per share offer price as analysts said the bid price was unlikely to be topped by a rival bidder. The move pushed share prices of second-line chemicals companies higher as analysts predicted a wave of consolidation in the sector, which has been hit by the strong pound.

A key figure in the Inspec takeover discussions will be its chairman, Dr John Holwood, who guided the company to the stock market in

1994. He holds a 5.6 per cent stake valued at £33.4m at yesterday's closing price. His share options are worth £9.1m.

Laporte's broker, CSFB, was aggressively buying Inspec shares in the market yesterday, demonstrating the company's commitment to the deal. It is likely to be a cash offer as Laporte has £130m in the bank.

Inspec was formed in 1990 after a management buyout of BP's speciality chemicals business. It bought Shell's speciality chemicals business for £200m two years later.

Inspec is a leading player in speciality chemicals for the pharmaceuticals industry, while Laporte has three divisions: speciality chemicals, pigments and additives, and compounds and electronics.

Laporte said the deal would be a good geographic and strategic fit, and Inspec's distribution system was strong as a result of its BP heritage.

The bid came as Croda International, a rival chemicals group, reported a sharp fall in underlying profits from £20.7m to £17.6m. It blamed the fall on the strength of sterling and falling demand in South-east Asian markets.

Croda shares fell more than 5 per cent in early trading but ended 25p higher at 332.5p as a result of the Laporte bid.

AROUND THE WORLD'S MARKETS

LONDON

SHARES endured a difficult session with Footsie falling 73.6 points to 5,736.1. Futures activity and a sell-off in New York were largely responsible, along with Far East and interest-rate uncertainties.

Blue chips, particularly those with transatlantic links, were the hardest hit, with second and third line shares for once holding up well. National Westminster Bank bucked the trend; with interim profits ahead of expectations the shares jumped 107p to 1,146p.

Derek Pain, page 19

NEW YORK

US STOCKS fell steeply as selling momentum snowballed amid concern about the White House sex scandal and that Japan might not do enough to boost the yen.

The Dow fell 224 points to 8,562.3, its lowest since June, before fighting back to 8,656.2 in the late afternoon. The Nasdaq index was hit even harder, falling by 2.7 per cent to 1,801. Trading was unpredictable - in the morning blue-chip stocks had gained almost 70 points.

TOKYO

STOCKS closed lower, with the benchmark Nikkei ending down 141.5 points at 16,023.6 as a late afternoon fall in the yen sapped sentiment. The volatile dollar-yen rate has come to be seen as a barometer of confidence in Japan.

In later trading the dollar was lower after the Minister of Finance, Kiichi Miyazawa, said he could not rule out intervention. The dollar fell to lows of 144.22 yen by late morning, although dealers speculated that the dollar's decline may prove short-lived.

PARIS

PARIS shares shed over 1 per cent as the latest yen worries and Wall Street's decline weighed on a market diminished by thin summer volumes.

The blue-chip CAC 40 closed down 47.2 points at 4,047.9. The CAC made solid gains until Wall Street opened, boosted by the engineering group Alstom; news of a £1.2bn Australian contract for a high-speed rail link between Sydney and Canberra boosted Alstom's price by more than 4 per cent.

FRANKFURT

SHARES closed lower in late Xetra trading in a lacklustre market that followed Wall Street's weak opening. The Xetra DAX closed at 5,718.70, down 37.50 from the day's floor close and 55.68 down on yesterday's close. The DAX closed 257 down at 5,756.2. Some stocks rebounded from early falls, but fell again as New York opened lower.

BASF shares fell after its warning that growth would slow in the second half overshadowed a 14 per cent rise in profits. BASF drug unit plans, page 17

JP 11/10/50

Pensions scandal demands a hearing

THE PENSIONS mis-selling saga ranks as the biggest financial scandal of the last 20 years. Bigger than Maxwell, bigger than Polly Peck, bigger than Barlow Clowes, bigger than BCCI. In terms of the number of people affected and the amounts involved, this scandal dwarfs all that have gone before.

At the last count, an estimated two million people had been sold grossly inappropriate pensions by fee-hungry salesmen. The cost to the industry of putting it right could reach £1.5bn.

Strange, then, that in the five years since the scandal first came to light there has been not a single prosecution. Fines have been levied on the pensions industry totalling £10m - a paltry sum set against the scale of the problem - and the worst offenders have been named and shamed for their appalling clear-up rates. But not a single company or individual director has been called to account.

The issue turns on the point at which the sale of an inappropriate pension ceases to be an unfortunate product of poor training and over-zealous salesmanship and becomes a dishonest or reckless act of pre-



OUTLOOK

meditation. At that point prior intent is established and the action can be punished by criminal prosecution and imprisonment of directors.

The regulators, in the shape of the Personal Investment Authority and Imro, and now the Financial Services Authority, say they have always been aware of the powers of criminal prosecution contained in the Financial Services Act. But they say that despite the millions of cases that have come to light, there has never been any reason to suppose prior intent.

It is equally reasonable to question whether this can possibly be the case. Unlike Maxwell, Polly Peck

and Barlow Clowes, there is not a single perpetrator to identify. In the case of pensions mis-selling, safety lies in numbers. The sheer extent of the problem and the number of companies and individual salesmen involved provide some natural cover. But can it really be the case that in two million instances of pensions mis-selling, prior intent never existed?

It could be argued that the provisions of the Financial Services Act are too onerous. It could also be argued that, had criminal prosecutions been launched before now, they would have seriously slowed down the process of cleaning up after the scandal and compensating its victims. In criminal cases the burden of proof is much higher, which is one reason why the new Financial Services Bill will make insider dealing an offence punishable through the civil courts.

But it was always unlikely that those conducting the pensions review would easily refer cases on to the police. Remember that the review is being carried out on a self-regulatory, voluntary basis by organisations that are run by the practitioners themselves.

It is too much to expect these

gamekeepers to turn poacher. But the same constraints do not apply to the company fraud squad at Scotland Yard. If prosecutions are merited, then neither the Treasury nor the FSA should be allowed to stand in the way. If the Government is as horrified as it says it is by the pensions mis-selling scandal, then it must know that one custodial sentence is worth a thousand fines.

Long wait worth it for Wanless

IT SEEMS like an awfully long time since Derek Wanless was able to stand up and deliver a set of NatWest results without simultaneously having to dodge the brickbats. Yesterday there was barely a projectile in sight for the chief executive to negotiate.

First-half profits nudged past the £1bn mark, the shares put on 10 per cent and, while NatWest's return on equity is still not in the Lloyds TSB class, our does it any longer resemble a rude noise in polite company.

It is still too early to declare NatWest back to full health after last

year's annus horribilis, when the exit from investment banking left behind a £700m hole in the profit and loss account. But the business is clearly at a turning point.

Not surprisingly, Mr Wanless and his chairman Lord Alexander were in chipper mood. The only thing that tended to wipe the smile off the latter's face was harmless questioning about the succession. Since everyone has known for ages that Lord A is being succeeded by Lord B it remains a minor mystery why NatWest insists on waiting until next April's agm to appoint James Blyth formally as its new chairman.

Shorn of the distractions of all those highly paid investment bankers, NatWest has rediscovered that its core UK retail banking business contains a powerful franchise. It has the biggest share of the small and medium-sized business market, 6.5 million personal account holders, a third of the credit card market and a mortgage book which grew faster in the first half than either Abbey National's or Halifax's.

Once Mr Wanless has finished building his new retail bank it will have 200 fewer branches, 10,000 less

staff and 55 brand spanking new operating centres. Provided he can re-educate customers to use these remote locations for their run-of-the-mill transactions he will have the best of both worlds: the presence of a high street bank and the economies of a telephone bank.

There may even be opportunities to leverage more business out of its business customer base for Greenwich NatWest, the renamed ramp of its investment banking arm, and NatWest Wealth Management, perhaps better known as Coutts, and the fund management business Gartmore.

It still looks a tall order to achieve a return on equity of 20 per cent from the Greenwich NatWest, given that it is only achieving 7 per cent now and will never have the fire-power of its bigger rivals.

But size is not everything. NatWest's comparative lack of exposure to Asia and the pensions mis-selling scandal mean that it has been able to escape big provisions this time around. In fact the balance sheet could comfortably accommodate a £700m return of capital to shareholders.

Lord Alexander has had plenty of time to plan for his departure since

he said right from the start that he would do 10 years in the job. Just imagine what a swansong it could have been had NatWest realised sooner where its strengths lay.

Strong arm of the lawyers

SUBTLETY IS NOT Emerson Electric's strong point. The US firm last hit the headlines for the strong-arm methods it employed to buy out the minority shareholders in Astec BSR. The tactic was simple if brutal: agree to be bought out at the market price or watch as we slash the dividend. The case went to court and Emerson won.

This time around it has won judgment against Trevor Wheatley, a former employee of a company it acquired in 1995, requiring him to honour an agreement not to start up a competing business. Since the agreement expires in five months, the legal action seems a little pointless. Unless the aim was to divert attention from Mr Wheatley's claim for wrongful dismissal. Or unless Emerson has a few too many lawyers on its board.

IN BRIEF

UK construction growth slows

THE UK construction industry continued to grow in July, albeit at a slower pace, according to a new survey. The Chartered Institute of Purchasing and Supply (CIPS) said its overall construction index came in at 57.2 last month, down from 57.9 in June. The CIPS said companies continued to report problems finding suitable sub-contractors and securing sufficient supplies of materials.

Exchange acts

MATIF, the French futures exchange, has introduced new controls in an attempt to iron out typing mistakes by spaghetti-fingered traders. The exchange, which has recently switched to electronic trading, is to freeze all orders whose transaction price is 25 per cent higher or lower than the previous day's fluctuation limit.

The move should help cut down on trading losses caused by typing errors. Last month one Matif trader reportedly lost £8m after entering the wrong price for a trade.

MEPC office buy

MEPC, the property company, has agreed to purchase John Laing Property and Terrace Hill's office development, called Heathrow Approach, at Langley, near Heathrow in Berkshire.

The acquisition involves around £27.7m payable to the developers in two phases, with a third phase dependent on a successful letting, the company said.

Heathrow Approach will consist of a five-storey 7,510 square metre, high quality office building with 348 car parking spaces, MEPC said. Developers John Laing Property and Terrace Hill expect to start construction in the autumn and will deliver the building in December 1999.

Fosse Park deal

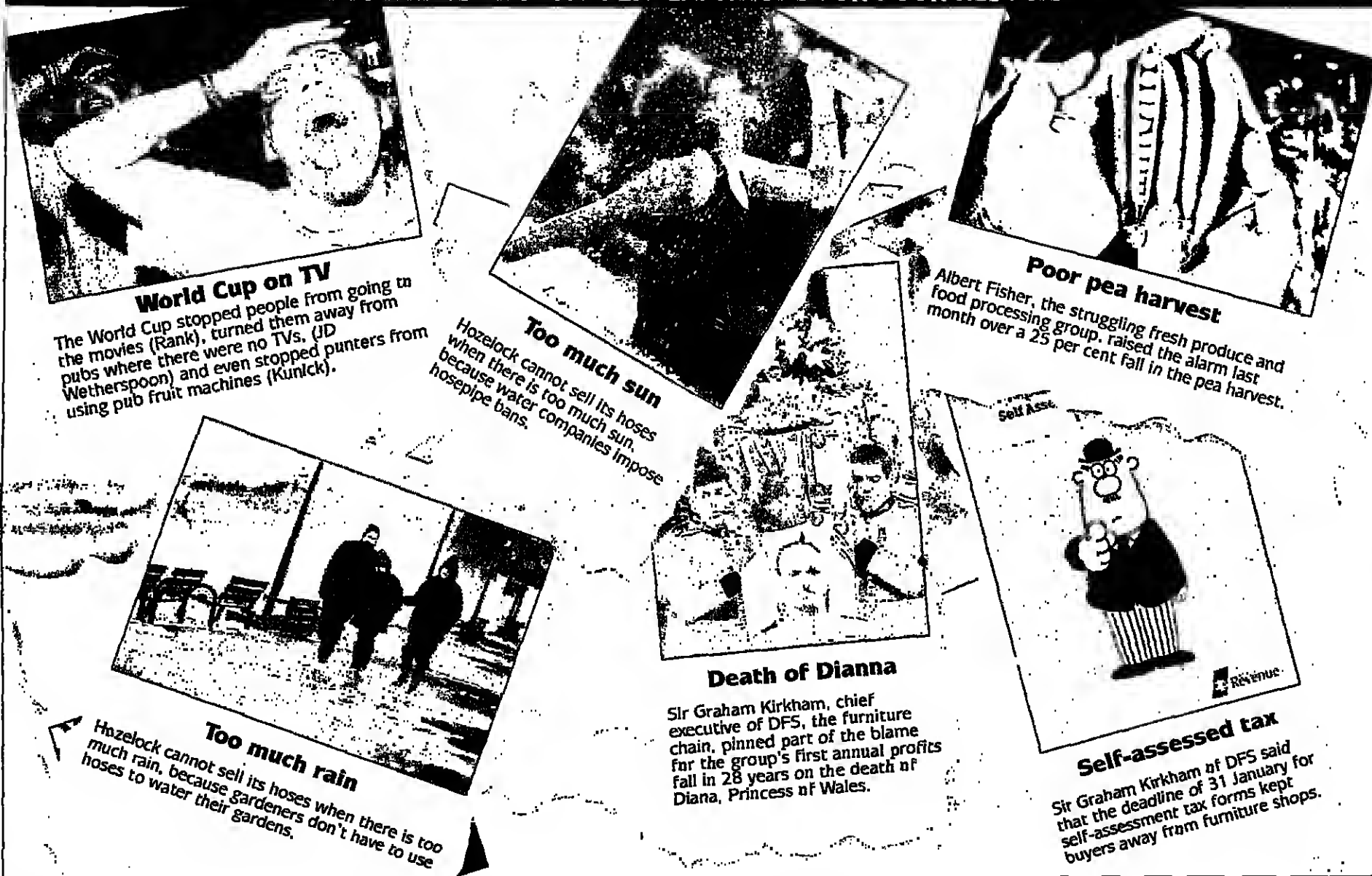
PILLAR PROPERTY, the property investment group, has formed a unit trust to buy two Fosse Park properties for £205.5m. Pillar Schroder Exempt Property Unit Trust and SITQ International Inc, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Caisse de depot et placement du Quebec, said they had formed a Jersey-based closed-end unit trust which had completed the acquisition of the Fosse Park and Fosse Park South retail parks near Leicester.

Key retail chains represented on the Fosse Park developments include Marks & Spencer, Boots, Burton, Next and Dixons. And on Fosse Park South they include Currys, PC World and Carpet Depot.

Pillar said that while the underlying units are not expected to become actively traded, it is believed that the simplicity of transferring the units will enhance the liquidity for investors.

The Trust provides for expansion by a further £300m should other suitable retail park investments be identified.

THE THINGS THEY SAY: EXPLANATIONS FOR POOR RESULTS



Poor profits, terrible excuses

BY JOHN WILLCOCK

News Analysis: It was the World Cup. It was the weather. It was the slump in three-dimensional jigsaws. Firms always find something to blame

EXCUSES, EXCUSES. While British Rail with its "wrong kind of leaves" may have passed into history, British businesses are achieving new peaks of productivity in inventing excuses for poor profits.

While strong sterling and Asian flu are the main bogymen of corporate Britain, both Kunick, the slot machine manufacturer and leasing company, and Rank, the leisure group, yesterday blamed the World Cup for poor recent sales.

Kunick yesterday issued a profits warning claiming the World Cup had kept gamblers out of pubs or glued to the television screens.

Kunick, which operates 40,000 machines in the UK, said the tournament had a "significant impact" on its income, wiping out 22 per cent of its takings. The total cost to its profits would be around £700,000, it said.

Russell Smith, Kunick's

chief executive said: "A lot of pubs brought in big screens for the tournament and, with the matches being shown in prime time, people watched TV rather than play on our machines."

"It had an amazing effect. We have never seen anything like it before."

Andrew Teare, Rank's chief executive, said yesterday that the Odeon chain suffered a drop in attendance in the second quarter because of the World Cup.

Echoing Mr Smith, Mr Teare said that punters preferred footy to films during the four-week tournament.

The pub group JD Wetherspoon also recently blamed the World Cup for a 10 per cent fall in beer sales during June.

Perversely, this was because Wetherspoon pursues the praiseworthy strategy of being "friendlier" than other pub

chains, by banning intrusive television and canned music from its premises. Sadly this proved a turnoff for punters during the tournament.

"To be fair, JD Wetherspoon has always been up-front in expecting poor sales during the World Cup, a four-week period every four years."

Jim Clarke, finance director, said in June: "We knew things were going to be tough, and they've been as difficult as we expected."

"It's something we knew was coming and now it's finished. Everything else is exactly in line with expectations."

Returning to this week, Roger Elmhorst, chairman of Zofeams, blamed the strong pound for a slowdown in profits this year, as well as "a slowdown in supply to the three-dimensional jigsaw puzzle manufacturers".

The Croydon-based plastics

manufacturer supplies foam to big toy makers like Hasbro, which use it to make giant puzzles, including a four-foot high Big Ben and a giant plane Notre Dame.

Not to be outdone in the excuse stakes, Albert Fisher, the struggling fresh produce, food processing and seafood group, announced half year losses of £28m in April due to the strong pound, a failed sale of its seafood operations - and El Nino, the global weather phenomenon.

It went even better last month when it announced more woe and pinned part of the blame on a 25 per cent fall in the pea harvest.

A spokesman for Albert Fisher said then: "We estimated a crop of around 32,000 tonnes but have seen that fall by a quarter."

Most of Albert Fisher's peas are grown in Lincolnshire and East Anglia, he said. "It's been wet, it's been damp and there has been no sun. The peas have not been as prolific as we had hoped."

Albert Fisher has been plagued by such misfortunes. A harsh winter destroyed Dutch coddle beds in the winter of 1996-7.

The company's finances were further buffeted by a glut of lettuce in California. Coincidentally one of the last serious bidders for the Albert Fisher business was Andrew Regan, just before he came a cropper last year trying to buy the Co-operative Wholesale Society.

When it comes to excuses, though, it is hard to beat old pros like Sir Graham Kirkham, chief executive of DFS, the furniture chain. Sir Graham managed to raise eyebrows even in the cynical City in June, when he had to an-

nounce the first fall in profits at the group in 28 years.

He blamed high interest rates, the hot weather in August last year, the death of Diana, Princess of Wales, the deadline for self-assessment tax forms on 31 January, and finally, Easter flooding.

You might have thought the abstract world of derivatives would be immune from such considerations, but Liffe, the London futures market, still managed to get in on the act yesterday.

John Foyle, Liffe's acting chief executive, warned that "July is traditionally a quiet month during the summer holiday period."

Are Liffe's German rivals on the Deutsche Terminbörse (now renamed Eurex) all sunning themselves on the beach? Or are the Teutonic borders heaving away, extending their lead over London in the crucial Bund contract market?

And, come to think of it, what is the German for "wrong kind of leaves"?

"They have used their deep pockets to finance their bully-boy tactics. It only makes you wonder how far these people will go."

News of the battle is set to further embarrass Emerson, which has already had its reputation in the City tarnished by its attempt to take control of Astec (BSR), the electronic components group in which it holds a 51 per cent stake.

Earlier this year, a consortium of institutional shareholders in Astec took Emerson to court for unfairly prejudicing the rights of its minority shareholders. However, the court threw out the case.

Mr Wheatley said that the whole episode had made him all the more determined.

"After the shabby way Emerson have treated me they have spawned the most determined competitor they have ever had," Mr Wheatley said.

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Work bar sparks legal battle

BY PETER THAL LARSEN

A SELF-MADE businessman is fighting a bitter legal battle with Emerson Electric, the US electronics giant, after a court ruling barred him from working for a rival firm.

Trevor Wheatley, a former executive with an Emerson subsidiary called Control Techniques, was last month told by the High Court that he could not work for or own shares in Focus Dynamics, another engineering firm.

Emerson had argued that Mr Wheatley's involvement with Focus violated a non-compete clause in his contract.

However, Mr Wheatley is planning to appeal against the ruling, which bars him from working for Focus until 20 December.

Meanwhile, he is also pursuing a claim for unfair dismissal against Emerson after he was sacked by the company in May - just one-and-a-half years into a five-year, \$20m (£12.3m) contract.

"Emerson spent an inordinate amount of time and money to stop me competing with them for another 20 weeks," Mr Wheatley said yesterday.

"I can only conclude they were doing that as a smoke-screen for the wrongful dismissal case."

"They have used their deep pockets to finance their bully-boy tactics. It only makes you wonder how far these people will go."

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Slump in crude oil price lops 29% off BP's profits

BP YESTERDAY blamed the slump in oil prices to their lowest level in a decade for a sharp fall in second-quarter earnings.

The oil giant's profits fell 29 per cent to £542m in the second three months of 1998 as the oil price collapsed on overproduction and slowing demand. First-half profits were down 28 per cent year-on-year to £1.71bn.

BY FRANCESCO GUERRERA

The interim dividend was up 9 per cent to 11.75p a share.

The figures were at the top end of analysts' expectations for profits of between £465m and £552m. The City took the numbers in its stride, with shares in BP closing 2p higher at 812p.

Sir John Browne, the chief

executive, said that the price of benchmark Brent crude had fallen by almost a third in the past year, averaging £13.50.

The plunging oil price had a negative effect on BP's core businesses - production, retailing and chemicals - and was only partially offset by a renewed drive to cut costs and increase efficiency, he said. "This is a good

result in a difficult business environment, with all the three businesses continuing to reduce costs and grow volumes."

The cost-cutting exercise, launched in March, delivered a £75m (£46m) gain in the quarter as BP set stringent restrictions on managers' travel and on its \$1bn-a-month procurement budget. The joint

venture with Mobil to pool petrol retail operations across Europe contributed a further \$200m saving and was on course to achieve the \$300m target by year-end, Sir John said.

However, profits in the refining and marketing division, which include forecourt retailing, fell to £289m from £308m. Analysts said the figures had

been hit by a fall in refining margins and by competition in the UK petrol station market, where BP has suffered since the arrival of cut-price supermarket retailers. Earnings in the exploration and production division were also down to £447m from £685m a year ago.

Mr Browne said BP had to rely on its own resources to keep

profits in a depressed market.

"We can't rely on any help in the near term from the [oil price] environment. Demand remains weak and stocks high. Our performance in the near future depends on our own efforts."

Analysts predicted that BP's share price would rebound if oil prices recover later this year, as expected.

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GM's plant at Flint, Michigan was one of 27 shut by the strike, but UK parts firms weathered the fall-out AP

Car part firms limit impact of GM strike

LUCASVARITY and Mayflower Corporation, two of the UK's largest car parts makers, brought some relief to the hard-pressed engineering sector yesterday when they revealed that the strike at General Motors would have only a limited impact on their earnings.

LucasVarity, the world's second-largest brakes producer, said that the eight-week strike at the US car maker would cut second-quarter operating profits by £1.1m, below analysts' expectations of a £1.2m to £1.5m hit. The company said the impact of the stoppage, which ended last week, would be partly offset by strong sales of cars and trucks in other markets.

Shares in Lucas rose 8p on the news before succumbing to profit-taking to end the day

0.5p lower at 213p. Fears that the GM strike - which cost the world's biggest car maker \$3bn (£1.8bn) and forced it to shut down 27 of its 29 US plants - could lead to large losses for its UK suppliers had led a number of City analysts to cut their investment and profit forecasts.

However, William Mackie, an analyst with broker Crédit Lyonnais Securities, said: "It is encouraging that LucasVarity have capped these costs. I think we'll see some confidence return."

Mayflower said that the strike cut sales by about £1.5m in the first half and would reduce earnings by around £4.5m in the second half. The company maintained that, although

Why indicators are a matter of confidence

RECENT months have seen a subtle but significant shift in the stance taken by some members of the Monetary Policy Committee as far as activity is concerned. As recently as six months ago, like most commentators, the Bank of England seemed to be assuming that the UK economy was running at around full capacity. The so-called "output gap" was therefore assumed to be around zero.



ADAM COLE

Businessmen and consumers often spot a turning point coming before the economists do

Against this background, the MPC's objective was clear - to get overall GDP growth down to its long-term sustainable rate from the unsustainable rates seen through most of last year. With growth in the first half of the year coming in at an annualised rate of around 2 per cent, this objective has been broadly met.

Recent comments from some MPC members, however, suggest that the objective itself has been re-assessed. In particular, comments that unemployment has probably now fallen below the non-accelerating inflation rate of unemployment (NAIRU) suggest that at least some members of the MPC now believe that the output gap is significantly positive. If this interpretation is correct, the implications for policy are potentially dramatic. Growth slowing to trend is not enough - a relatively hard landing for the UK economy could be beginning to look like a policy objective.

So where are we looking for the first signs that the gentle slowdown in overall activity seen so far is turning into something more akin to the recessions of the early 1980s or early 1990s? The range of leading indicators of economic activity in the UK is not as broad as it was - the Office for National Statistics (ONS) discontinued the official composite leading indicators some time ago after an investigation revealed they had little predictive power. And unpredictable shifts in velocity have made the monetary aggregates of little use in predicting turning points in activity, as the Bank of England has implicitly admitted by dropping monitoring ranges for both broad and narrow money. This leaves indicators of confidence - consumer and business - as the main leading indicators of economic activity in the UK.

bly, this reflects the strength of demand for skilled labour in services and the ease with which many skilled workers are able to move between sectors now.

Again, therefore, the CBI survey seems to confirm that growth is set to slow - possibly very sharply - but there is little evidence that the absolute level of activity is sustainable at present.

One further factor points to an increasingly unhealthy picture in industry - the financial position of the corporate sector. As the chart shows, industrial and commercial companies (ICCs) moved into financial deficit last year and in the last two quarters have seen deficits of close to 2 per cent of GDP. The ICCs' financial deficit was probably the single most important lead indicator of the early 1990s recession - companies' finances had become so stretched that sharp declines in capital spending and employment were almost inevitable.

Clearly the current deficit does not look nearly as worrying as that of the late 1980s and early 1990s, but the trend is not encouraging. Historically, the ICCs' financial balance has led GDP growth by around a year and deficits of 3 per cent of GDP or more have eventually been associated with falling output. The state of company finances does not argue for panic and the prospect of an imminent hard landing, but there is little doubt that the balance of

risks is changing and could be changing quite quickly.

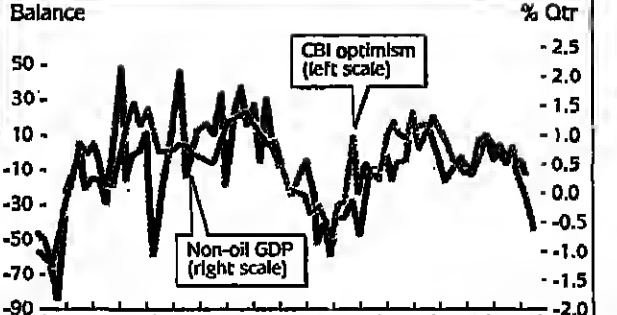
So much for industry. What about consumers, who arguably are the beneficiaries of sterling's strength as import prices have fallen, boosting real incomes. Recent press reports based on the MORI Economic Optimism Index have suggested that consumer confidence in particular has "collapsed". The fall from +1 to -19 between May and June in the optimists-pessimists balance is certainly dramatic, and was sustained in July. However, at current levels the survey is still pointing to weakly positive retail sales growth, rather than absolute falls in volumes. And the broader measure of confidence published by the European Commission remains at levels consistent with strong growth in sales.

So the evidence for an imminent collapse in consumer spending is far from convincing. But the data does highlight the case for a sharp slowing in consumer spending in the second half of the year as consumers respond to higher base rates, higher taxes (at least marginally) and an ongoing deceleration in the rate at which unemployment is falling. Add to this a further fading in the impact of last year's windfalls, and a sharper slowdown in consumption than current forecasts imply is not difficult to envisage.

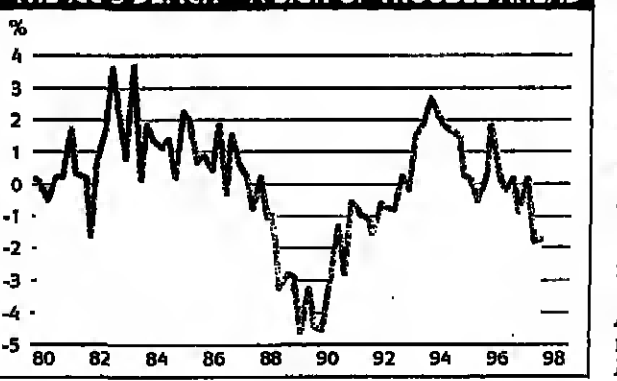
Over the coming months, indicators of consumer and industrial sentiment need to be monitored carefully. Talk of confidence having "collapsed" probably overstates the severity of the deterioration in recent months. But when confidence started to fall in the early 1990s, the deterioration was rapid indeed.

It is not clear what role reports of falling business and consumer confidence played in the MPC's decision to leave rates on hold last month, or what role they might play at next week's MPC meeting. But as indications of how hard a landing we can expect, and how soon rates can fall, changes in business and consumer sentiment will be amongst the most important over the coming months. If the early 1990s recession taught us anything, then it was probably that at important turning points in activity, businessmen and consumers often spot something coming before economists do.

CBI CONFIDENCE ALREADY POINTING TO NEGATIVE GROWTH



THE ICC'S DEFICIT - A SIGN OF TROUBLE AHEAD



Adam Cole is UK Economist at HSBC Economics and Investment Strategy

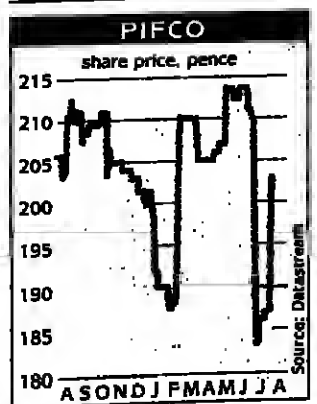
Pifco undaunted by Kenwood rebuffs

PIFCO HOLDINGS, the Russell Hobbs kettles and Carmen hair curlers company, revealed yesterday that it is still interested in buying Kenwood Appliances though it has not yet made another approach. Pifco made several approaches to Kenwood last year but was rebuffed.

The Pifco chairman, Michael Webber, said he remained convinced of the industrial and commercial logic of bringing the companies together and did not rule out an eventual deal.

"There's been consolidation at the retail end so we believe that the manufacturers receive a bonus issue of 1 for 12 to make up for the dilutive effects. The news pushed Pifco shares up

BY NIGEL COPE
Associate City Editor



13.5p to 203p. Pifco profits rose by 23 per cent to £1.2m in the year to April and its cash pile increased from £1.1m to £1.8m.

The company's buoyant statement was in stark contrast to Kenwood's, which said that first-half profits are likely to be "materially below last year". Chairman David Nash said that since the company's annual meeting in June trading conditions had remained "soft" in export markets and that July

Perform or be sold, BASF tells drug unit

BY FRANCESCO GUERRERA

EUROPE'S LARGEST chemical company, BASF, is set to sell its troubled pharmaceutical division in 2000 unless the business delivers a dramatic increase in sales over the next 18 months.

The German giant has set a sales target of more than DM6bn (£2.1bn) for BASF Pharma if the division is to avoid being sold to one of BASF's rivals. This is a 46 per cent increase on last year's sales, which totalled DM4.1bn.

A sale of BASF Pharma would attract widespread interest from pharmaceutical groups such as Glaxo Wellcome and SmithKline Beecham of the UK, the Swedish giant Astra and Merck of the US, which will be keen to acquire the rights to market Meridia, the company's highly-regarded anti-obesity drug.

Eggert Voscherau, a member of BASF's board of executive directors, said: "If Pharma achieves DM6bn in sales by the year 2000, it will remain in the group. If it doesn't, the question [of a sale] will be answered. It does not make sense to have a pharma operation if it can't live up to expectations."

The division captures less than 1 per cent of the world's drug market and has suffered because of its small scale compared to most of its rivals. Experts say the fate of BASF Pharma depends crucially on the performance of Meridia.

The slimming treatment won regulatory approval in the US in February and has so far racked up sales of DM152m. BASF expects sales to reach DM900m a year from 1999 after the expected approval of the drug by European regulators.

If Meridia meets expectations, BASF Pharma should comfortably meet its sales target and avoid the sale, according to observers. However, they warn that Meridia's sales could be hit by competition from Xenical, a rival slimming compound from the Swiss company Roche that won approval from the European regulators earlier this week.

The two rival obesity drugs are not expected to go head-to-head in the important American market until 1999, when Xenical is expected to gain US approval. So far the bulk of BASF Pharma's sales have come from the thyroid treatment Synthroid, which made DM622m in 1997.

Separately, BASF yesterday reported a 14.1 per cent increase in net profit for the first half to DM1.62bn on sales up 3.4 per cent to DM28.7bn. Jürgen Strube, the chief executive, said the economic crisis in Asia would cut around DM500m from 1998 sales as demand and margins for BASF's core chemical products fall.

The company also announced that it is to seek a listing on the New York Stock Exchange by 2000.

COMPANY RESULTS					
Name	Turnover (£)	Pre-tax (£)	EPS	Dividend	Pay day
Anglo-Eastern (F)	25.9m (6.48m)	2,650m (6,347m)	3.1p (4.2p)	-	02.10.98
AMEC Group (F)	63.84m (7.48m)	3,040m (8,032m)	25.2p (55.0p)	3.0p (4.5p)	02.10.98
Ashted (F)	5.9m (1.53m)	0.64m (0.65m)	5.53p (5.22p)	1.4p (1.4p)	08.10.98
Cablecast (F)	164.6m (182.2m)	7.7m (22.8m)	0.7p (11.5p)	3.55p (3.55p)	02.11.98
Credit (F)	2.1m (2.35m)	-2.27m (-0.96m)	-0.11p (-0.38p)	-	-
Division Group (F)	532.4m (339.17m)	2,560m (110.2m)	-11.72p (-6.13p)	-	-
Greenwater Land (F)	-	3.86m (1.38m)	18.2p (8.0p)	2.5p (2.25p)	30.10.98
Headstock Ltd (F)	22.94m (20.25m)	19.5m (16.1m)	5.94p (4.94p)	1.10p (0.80p)	13.11.98
London (F)	208.2m (188.2m)	967.0m (848.0m)	28.9p (27.3p)	11.5p (10.8p)	05.10.98
Mayflower Corp (F)	-	21.1p (18.1p)	10.3p (8.0p)	7.2p (1.8p)	02.11.98
Northwest (F)	14.04m (10.41m)	2.36m (1.72m)	21.1p (18.1p)	8.8p (8.0p)	01.09.98
Pfizer (F)	47.11m (44.20m)	4.23m (3.827m)	7.4p (6.9p)	5.75p (5.25p)	08.04.98
Pfizer Group (F)	901.0m (855.0m)	94.0m (85.0m)	-	-	-

(F) - Fiscal (F) - Financial (F) - New Month EPS is pre-accruals *Dividend to be paid as a PD

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02 WEEK													
Stock	Price	Chg	TM	PE	Div	High	Low	Stock	Price	Chg	TM	PE	Div
8 Canada Gov	162.45	0.00	82	7.95	2.57	152	162.45	91.50	37.25	0.00	77	12.72	0.00
9 Enbridge Inc	8.00	0.00	82	10.00	0.00	344	8.00	29.15	18.75	0.00	42	11.4	0.00
10 Enbridge Inc	13.00	0.00	82	13.00	0.00	41	13.00	41.00	25.00	0.00	51	11.1	0.00
11 Enbridge Inc	580.00	25.00	82	29.37	1.00	489	581.00	381.00	48.00	0.00	181	18.91	0.00
12 Enbridge Inc	119.00	0.00	82	11.90	0.00	119	119.00	119.00	119.00	0.00	11.9	11.9	0.00
13 Enbridge Inc	119.00	0.00	82	11.90	0.00	119	119.00	119.00	119.00	0.00	11.9	11.9	0.00
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22 Enbridge Inc	119.00	0.00	82	11.90	0.00	119	119.00	119.00	119.00	0.00	11.9	11.9	0.00
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37 Bell Canada	91.50	0.00	82	9.15	0.00	81	91.50	81.50	83.50	0.00	78	12.72	0.00
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96 Bell Canada	91.50	0.00	82	9.15	0.00	81	91.50	81.50	83.50	0.00	78	12.72	0.00
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98 Bell Canada	91.50	0.00	82	9.15	0.00	81	91.50	81.50	83.50	0.00	78	12.72	0.00
99 Bell Canada	91.50	0.00	82	9.15	0.00	81	91.50	81.50	83.50	0.00	78	12.72	0.00
100 Bell Canada	91.50	0.00	82	9.15	0.00	81	91.50	81.50	83.50	0.00	78	12.72	0.00
TELECOMMUNICATIONS													
101 Bell Canada	91.50	0.00	82	9.15	0.00	81							

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SPORT

Born-again Little rules at Britannia

Phil Shaw talks to the former Aston Villa manager about the challenge facing his new team, Stoke City, as the Nationwide League begins on Saturday

NOTHING ILLUSTRATES the dramatic change in Brian Little's career path better than the decline in his purchasing power. A year ago he splashed out £7m to take Stan Collymore to Aston Villa. This summer's signings for Stoke City have all been free-transfer men.

Little vacated the Premiership stage six months ago with Villa days away from a UEFA Cup quarter-final. Resurfacing at Stoke after their relegation to the Second Division, he joined a club bereft of funds and plagued by strife between directors and fans.

No one, however, should feel sorry for Little or assume he has fallen on hard times. He left Villa Park of his own volition and is under no illusions as to the extent of Stoke's problems. Moreover, to watch him

'I liked the new ground and earthiness of the people. I saw a club that should be pushing for the Premiership'

at work on the training pitch and to hear him talk is to be struck by his renewed appetite for the fray.

Gone is the haunted figure who had "grown sick of everything that detracted from playing football", who could not conceal his irritation when continually pressed to unravel the Collymore conundrum or the enigma of Savo Milosevic.

He was able to enjoy the World Cup on television from his new home, 15 minutes from the Britannia Stadium. Crucially, after "16 years non-stop work", he claims he has finally learned how to take a holiday.

It would be Stoke's good fortune to have acquired the "old" Little - the tactically astute manager-coach who led Darlington and Leicester to promotion before a largely successful spell back at his first club - as well as most of his backroom staff at Villa.

But one has to ask: whatever possessed him to come to a club now a division below the Premier League, Port Vale, and at the same level as nearby Macclesfield?

"When I left Villa I wanted a breather from the game," Little says. "I thought I'd take six months off, maybe a year."

Had he done that, he would have been free to return to the top flight following the annual autumn call.



New beginnings for Brian Little as he looks out over the new Stoke City ground he admires so much and reflects on what lies ahead for the club this season

Barry Greenwood

"When Stoke came to me I wasn't looking for anything, but I talked to them out of courtesy. After I decided I quite fancied it, I told myself: 'Whether I stay six weeks, months or years, what I can't do is start wishing I'd hung on for this or that.'"

"If I wanted to be a manager in the Premiership I would have stayed with Villa. I'll always love the club and it was a great job for me, which I thoroughly enjoyed."

That still does not explain why he chose Stoke, weeks after sitting in his Majorcan holiday home and watching coverage of the 5-2 surrender to Manchester City which sealed their fate.

"Put it this way. I'm the sort of

person who, when he decides to do something, whether it's driving cars or motorbikes or going out at night, just goes and does it. I felt like a challenge. I liked the new ground and the earthiness of the people. I also saw this as a club that should at least be pushing for the Premiership."

His wife, Heather, who he met while working as Villa's youth coach after injury curtailed a hugely promising career as a striker, is a Staffordshire girl. Furthermore, Little retained a good impression of Stoke from his adolescence.

"When I was about 13 I came down here from Durham as a trialist and they let me travel with the first team to a match against the

great Leeds side. Stoke lost but there were these great experienced players like George Eastham and Peter Doherty. I really enjoyed it and, though I ended up at Villa, I kept that positive memory."

Stoke's most successful era, under the late Tony Waddington, was notable as much for the team's rugged local backbone as for the ball players who followed the trail woven by Stanley Matthews. The area has always produced a high proportion of players, but Little does not have the luxury of waiting for talent to filter through.

"I'm honest enough to say that my role is a short-term one. I've set myself a two-year target to try to get

Stoke up. I could have asked for a five-year deal but this way they won't feel under pressure if it's not working. I'll oversee the youth policy, sure, but my priority is the first team."

Last season's record also included a 7-0 home defeat by Birmingham, but Little insists that everyone starts with a clean slate. "I've tried to look back no further than the day I joined and not to look for excuses I might need in the future," he says.

In terms of Stoke's fan base, he sees similarities with Leicester. He concedes that the more valid comparison, vis-a-vis resources and the low starting point, might be with

Darlington, who dropped into the Vauxhall Conference before he led them to two promotions in succession on a shoestring budget.

The Stoke faithful, while not relenting in their hostility to the board, have rallied behind Little. His first meeting with the supporters' club was scheduled for a function room that holds 400. So many turned up that it had to be switched to the main stand.

Little has taken advantage of the Bosman ruling to bolster his squad, signing Craig Short, David Oldfield, Phil Robinson and Bryan Small, while reviving a penchant for coaching that was shackled at Villa by the office workload.

"I used to have the national daily press, the Sundays, the evenings, two or three TV channels and various local radio stations, all wanting a different angle. Here I've just got a couple of guys to deal with."

Scrutiny may intensify if the potless Potters make the promotion push their followers anticipate and the new incumbent can expect to come under the spotlight in November. Thirty years after he and his brother Alan started out at Villa, they will have their first managerial duel when Stoke face York.

It will, I suggest, be a great day. "Not for our parents," says Brian Little, breaking into the laugh of a boro-again football man.

League unveils superstars of the century

THE FOOTBALL League has unveiled the names of its "100 League Legends" on a commemorative list designed as part of the celebrations for the forthcoming centenary season.

Six current Premiership players are on the list picked by football journalists - Tony Adams, Paul Gascoigne, Alan Shearer, Ryan Giggs, Peter Schmeichel and Dennis Bergkamp - while Eric Cantona also features.

The idea, however, was to choose players from all eras of the game's development to emphasise the League's history.

While David Beckham and Michael Owen may be considered too young to warrant a place, many a debate will no doubt be sparked by the omission of internationals such as Jack Charlton, Trevor Brooking, David Seaman, Ian Wright and Peter Beardsley.

The list features 34 players whose careers began before the Second World War, starting with West Bromwich Albion's Billy Bassett, who played in the 1880s, through Dixie Dean, Tommy Lawton and Sir Stanley Matthews.

There are a further 37 players who started after the war but had all retired by 1980, from Nat Lofthouse, through to Billy Wright and on to Sir Bobby Charlton, Geoff Hurst and Denis Law.

The remaining 29 players have all played during the 1980s or 1990s, from Martin Peters and George Best, through Malcolm Macdonald, Peter Shilton and Kevin Keegan to Glenn Hoddle, Kenny Dalglish and Gary Lineker.

Those of the "100 Legends" who can attend will be honoured with a specially commissioned award at a Football League centenary dinner later this coming season - the 100th in the history of the organisation.

The Football League's chief executive, Richard Scudamore, said: "The committee had an immensely difficult task to choose just 100 'League Legends' but I think that the list they have confirmed is almost impossible to better."

Sir Stanley, who played from 1932 to 1965, said: "I think this is a wonderful initiative and it's great to see so many of my footballing friends and colleagues on the League Legends list."

Sir Tom Finney added: "It's a great honour to be nominated as a Football League legend among so many outstanding players."

Other centenary season initiatives include the establishment of a list of "local heroes" at each of the 72 Football League clubs, as well as the production of commemorative publications.

FROM BASSETT TO BERGKAMP: THE FOOTBALL LEAGUE'S HALL OF FAME

- | | | |
|---|---|---|
| Billy Bassett - West Bromwich Albion (1888-1900) | Neil Franklin - Stoke, Hull, Crewe, Stockport (1946-1958) | Colin Bell - Bury, Manchester City (1963-1979) |
| Archie Hunter - Aston Villa (1888-1891) | Trevor Ford - Swansea, Aston Villa, Sunderland, Cardiff, Newport (1946-1961) | George Best - Manchester United, Stockport, Fulham, Bournemouth (1963-1983) |
| John Goodall - Preston, Derby, New Brighton, Glossop (1888-1904) | Nat Lofthouse - Bolton (1946-1961) | Peter Shilton - Leicester, Stockport, Nottingham Forest, Southampton, Derby, Plymouth, Bolton, Leyton Orient (1965-1997) |
| Steve Bloomer - Derby, Middlesbrough (1892-1915) | Tom Finney - Preston (1946-1960) | Ray Clemence - Scunthorpe, Liverpool, Tottenham (1965-1988) |
| Billy Meredith (pictured below) - Manchester City, Manchester United (1893-1925) | Alf Ramsey - Southampton, Tottenham (1946-1955) | Malcolm Macdonald - Fulham, Luton, Newcastle, Arsenal (1968-1977) |
| Bob Crompton - Blackburn (1896-1921) | Len Shackleton - Bradford Park Avenue, Newcastle, Sunderland (1946-1958) | Kevin Keegan - Scunthorpe, Liverpool, Southampton, Newcastle (1968-1984) |
| Billy Foulke - Sheffield United, Chelsea, Bradford (1894-1908) | Jimmy Dickinson - Portsmouth (1946-1965) | Trevor Francis - Birmingham, Nottingham Forest, Manchester City, QPR, Sheffield Wednesday (1970-1995) |
| Alf Common - Sunderland, Sheffield United, Middlesbrough, Arsenal, Preston (1900-1915) | Arthur Rowley - West Bromwich Albion, Fulham, Leicester, Shrewsbury (1946-1965) | Graeme Souness - Middlesbrough, Liverpool (1972-1984) |
| Sam Hardy - Chesterfield, Liverpool, Aston Villa, Nottingham Forest (1902-1926) | Billy Liddell - Liverpool (1946-1961) | Liam Brady - Arsenal, West Ham (1973-1990) |
| Bill McCracken - Newcastle (1904-1924) | Billy Wright - Wolverhampton Wanderers (1946-1959) | Glenn Hoddle - Tottenham, Swindon, Chelsea (1974-1996) |
| Viv Woodward - Tottenham, Chelsea (1908-1915) | Jackie Milburn - Newcastle (1946-1957) | Bryan Robson - West Bromwich Albion, Manchester United, Middlesbrough (1974-1997) |
| Clem Stephenson - Aston Villa, Huddersfield (1910-1930) | John Charles - Leeds, Cardiff (1948-1966) | Alan Hansen - Liverpool (1977-1990) |
| Charles Buchan - Sunderland, Arsenal (1910-1929) | Ivor Allchurch - Swansea, Newport, Cardiff (1948-1968) | Kenny Dalglish - Liverpool (1977-1990) |
| Elsha Scott - Liverpool (1912-1934) | Danny Blanchflower - Barnsley, Aston Villa, Tottenham (1948-1964) | Gary Lineker - Leicester, Everton, Tottenham (1978-1993) |
| Dixie Dean - Tranmere, Everton, Notts County (1923-1939) | Bert Trautmann - Manchester City (1949-1964) | Ian Rush - Chester, Liverpool, Leeds, Newcastle (1978-1998) |
| George Camsell - Durham, Middlesbrough (1924-1939) | Jimmy McIlroy - Burnley, Stoke, Oldham (1950-1968) | Ossie Ardiles - Tottenham, Blackburn, QPR, Swindon (1978-1990) |
| Hughie Gallagher - Newcastle, Chelsea, Derby, Notts County, Grimsby, Gateshead (1925-1939) | Tommy Taylor - Barnsley, Manchester United (1950-1958) | Neville Southall - Bury, Port Vale, Everton, Stoke (1980-1998) |
| Harry Hibbs - Birmingham, Bristol City (1925-1939) | Cliff Jones - Swansea, Tottenham, Fulham (1952-1970) | Paul McGrath - Manchester United, Aston Villa, Derby (1981-1998) |
| Alex James - Preston, Arsenal (1925-1938) | Johnny Haynes - Fulham (1952-1970) | John Barnes - Watford, Liverpool, Newcastle (1981-1998) |
| Eddie Hapgood - Arsenal (1927-1939) | Duncan Edwards - Manchester United (1953-1958) | Tony Adams - Arsenal (1983-1998) |
| Cliff Bastin - Exeter, Arsenal (1927-1948) | Jimmy Armfield - Blackpool (1954-1971) | Paul Gascoigne - Newcastle, Tottenham, Middlesbrough (1984-1998) |
| Willie Copping - Leeds, Arsenal (1930-1939) | Terry Paine - Southampton, Hereford (1956-1977) | Alan Shearer - Southampton, Blackburn, Newcastle (1987-1998) |
| David Jack - Plymouth, Bolton, Arsenal (1930-1935) | Bobby Charlton - Manchester United, Preston (1956-1975) | Ryan Giggs - Manchester United (1990-1998) |
| Stanley Matthews - Stoke, Blackpool (1931-1966) | Jimmy Greaves - Chelsea, Tottenham, West Ham (1957-1971) | Eric Cantona - Leeds, Manchester United (1991-1997) |
| Ted Drake - Southampton, Arsenal (1931-1939) | Denis Law - Huddersfield, Manchester City, Manchester United (1956-1974) | Peter Schmeichel - Manchester United (1991-1998) |
| Joe Mercer - Everton, Arsenal (1932-1954) | Gordon Banks - Chesterfield, Leicester, Stoke (1958-1973) | Dennis Bergkamp (pictured right) - Arsenal (1995-1998) |
| Raich Carter - Sunderland, Derby, Hull (1932-1953) | Dave Mackay - Tottenham, Derby, Swindon (1958-1972) | |
| Peter Doherty - Blackpool, Manchester City, Derby, Huddersfield, Doncaster (1933-1954) | Bobby Moore - West Ham, Fulham (1958-1977) | |
| Frank Swift - Manchester City (1933-1951) | Alan Mullery - Fulham, Tottenham (1958-1976) | |
| Tommy Lawton - Burnley, Everton, Chelsea, Notts County, Brentford, Arsenal (1935-1957) | Geoff Hurst - West Ham, Stoke, West Bromwich Albion (1959-1976) | |
| Willie Mannion - Middlesbrough, Hull (1936-1956) | Nobby Stiles - Manchester United, Middlesbrough, Preston (1959-1974) | |
| George Hardwick - Middlesbrough, Oldham (1937-1956) | Johnny Giles - Manchester United, Leeds, West Bromwich Albion (1959-1977) | |
| Johnny Carey - Manchester United (1937-1954) | Billy Bremner - Leeds, Hull, Doncaster (1959-1982) | |
| Stan Mortensen - Blackpool, Hull, Southport (1938-1958) | Frank McLintock - Leicester, Arsenal, QPR (1959-1977) | |
| | Alec Young - Everton, Stockport (1960-1969) | |
| | Martin Peters - West Ham, Tottenham, Norwich, Sheffield United (1960-1981) | |
| | Tommy Smith - Liverpool, Swansea (1962-1979) | |
| | Norman Hunter - Leeds, Bristol City, Barnsley (1962-1983) | |
| | Pat Jennings - Watford, Tottenham, Arsenal (1962-1985) | |
| | Alan Ball - Blackpool, Everton, Arsenal, Southampton, Bristol Rovers (1962-1984) | |

Handwritten signature: John McGraw

Fein prefers to differ on design

SAILING

By STUART ALEXANDER
at Cowes

STEPHEN FEIN took home the Aishler Salver yesterday after his 25-year-old Full Pelt gave every one else in Class 2 a sailing lesson here. However, he is not very happy about the state of sailboat racing in the United Kingdom.

The system, he feels, has worked against him for years. So this week Fein and his long-time collaborator, the 1984 Olympic bronze medalist Jo Richards, have put their radical yacht in a cradle on the hard and plumped for the traditional.

The Sparkman & Stephens-designed Swan 48 which they are campaigning here, and will soon be taking to Sardinia, is heavier than all the previous boats he has raced put together. That means

heavier than a 40-footer, a 36-footer, a Formula 40 catamaran, a Formula 28 catamaran and two Etchells. It is the 36-footer that is on the hard and the Swan is 10 times its weight. The 36-footer has a handicap rating which puts it in Class 1, the Swan, 12ft longer, is half-way down Class 2.

Fein makes his point forcefully. "What encouragement is there to build a light boat?" he asks. "Absolutely none; you'll never win a race. There is no encouragement to push design forward. So, until the new IR2000 measurement rule being introduced by the Royal Ocean Racing Club is clear, we can't build a new boat."

Fein very much wants to build a new boat. He is confident he can sell the Swan and be just loves to give Richards his head when it comes to design. It was a joke when they

said the 36ft water-balled flyer has been built to rules which complied with Swiss trailer regulations, but they were almost forced into exile because they were punished at home for being innovative. "In Italy and Switzerland people came to look at the boat and admire it. Here it is dismissed as a cowboy's boat," he says.

Reluctant to try to form a breakaway group in Britain, he ploughs his own furrow. Never even invited to discuss his views by the sport's organisers, he is frustrated by attitudes he feels are out of date.

"They need owners, but there are two kinds of owner," he says. "Those who know what league they are in themselves, and are happy to let those who are better get on with it, and those who want to drag everyone down to their level."



Tonnerre, a Class 1 yacht, under spinnaker ahead of the fleet at Cowes yesterday

Full Pelt in charge on confused day

CONFUSION REIGNED in Cowes yesterday as yachts sailing in both Class 2 and 3 races were asked first to sail one course and then another, writes Stuart Alexander.

Those who sailed the changed course - broadcast twice on the radio - thought their results should stand. Those who did not, either wanted the race thrown out or their own result acknowledged.

But there was no doubt in the minds of those who sailed the proper course about who should have won. The winner of the 48 Full Pelt with the Olympic bronze medalist Jo Richards, Kiwi Flying Dutchman sailor Graham Deegan, and long-time Solent expert Chris Preston called the shots at the back.

A new trio headed Class 1 with two golden oldies, the Swan 65 Accurist and the 12-Metre Crusader, sandwiching the J90 J Lance 2.

Results, Digest, page 25

KEMPTON

HYPERION
6.00 Monument 6.30 Native 7.00 Caismir
7.30 Huntswood 8.00 Wayne Lukas 8.30 Ron's Pat

GOING: Good to Firm.
STALLS: Straight course - stands side; remainder - inside.
DRAW ADVANTAGE: Low numbers best for 61 & 71.
NIGHT-HANDICAP: Separate straight course for 61 & 71.
RACECOURSE: at 3.00 at Sunbury. Bus link from Richmond under ground station. Kempton Park railway station adjoins the course. Admission: Club £24, £15 to 25-year-olds, £10 to 16-year-olds, £5 to 11-year-olds. Club members £22, remainder, £10. LEADING TRAINERS: R. Harrison 33-259 (27%), S. M. Stoute 17-64 (18%), J. Duggan 16-78 (13%), N. H. H. 14-63 (12%), M. LEADING JOCKEYS: P. Eddowes 41-109 (20%), T. Duggan 30-235 (12%), W. Ryan 10-102 (8%), S. Sanders 10-107 (8%). FAVOURITES: 61-489 (24%), BLINKERED FIRST TIME: D. O'Sullivan (730), Soft Touch (830), Mighty Magic (950), 600.

LONDON IRISH RUGBY CLUB

APPRENTICE HANDICAP (CLASS E)
\$4,000 added 1m 4f

1 0003 FAIRY KNIGHT (2) R. Harrison 6 10 0 P. Dobbie (2) 7
2 0005 STAFFORD (3) R. Harrison 6 10 0 P. Dobbie (2) 8
3 0007 MOUNTAIN (2) R. Harrison 6 10 0 P. Dobbie (2) 9
4 0009 MYSTIC QUEST (2) R. Harrison 6 10 0 P. Dobbie (2) 10
5 1-226 MYSTIC QUEST (2) R. Harrison 6 10 0 P. Dobbie (2) 11

ROWE & MAW MAIDEN

STAKES (CLASS C) £5,000 added 2Y0 7f

1 0001 BERGAMO (2) J. W. P. 9 7 P. Eddowes (2) 19
2 0003 MOON BLAZED (15) R. Harrison 9 7 P. Eddowes (2) 20
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Leisure and pleasure on hold for High-Rise

BY RICHARD EDMONDSON

WHEN a young colt wins the Derby days his fancy turns to thoughts of love. Victory in the Blue Riband usually means that our hero is quickly transported to the equine version of a bachelor's bedroom. A quick squirt of cologne from the atomizer later, a rap on the door announces a quote of some of the best-bred fillies in existence.

If this is a tale about High-Rise, this year's Derby victor, has in mind, he is in for a bit of a start. There will be no silk dressing gowns, no long afternoons of pleasure for Luca Cumani's colt in 1999. Instead, he will be thrashing himself round some of the most competitive races on the planet. For God's sake, don't tell him.

Unless a telegram bearing lots of zeroes arrives on the mat of High-Rise's owner, Sheikh Mohammed Obaid Al Maktoum, the colt is likely to become only the second Derby winner of the 1990s to compete as a four-year-old. The example of Quest For Fame, the 1990 winner, is not a stirring one. His career continued with limited success in the United States.

In recent times the Epsom winners' enclosure has been a holding bay on the way to the

Far East. Five of the last seven Blue Riband victors have gone to Japan. This one is staying, for the time being, "unless we get a very large offer".

"The bottom line is that he is a horse that ran only once at two, and he's not going to have that many races at three," Anthony Stroud, the racing manager to Sheikh Obaid, added yesterday. "The owner has never really had a top horse and he's got one here. And racing is all about racing your top horses."

"It's so hard to get a good horse that I think owners are becoming more sporting. If you look at the prices at Keeneland recently, things are hotting up, but it's a question of balancing enjoyment and finance. Some people are lucky enough to be able to afford a horse in training as a four-year-old."

"From a stallion point of

view too, you've got to say he'll only enhance his reputation if he does well at four."

High-Rise has certainly not done badly at all at two and three, even if he has yet to become the magnetic figure of some of his predecessors. The garlands will surely come

RICHARD EDMONDSON
Nap: Fnan
(Kempston 6.30)
NB: Elbarrow
(Kempston 7.30)

though if he can collect the Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe, his next race, in October. That will all more necessarily mean revenge over his King George VI & Queen Elizabeth Stakes conqueror Swain, as well as the disposal of Dream Well, the season's other outstanding three-year-old.

After that, the plan makes itself. "I just wish there were more mile and half races for him because effectively there are only four," Stroud said. "Next year it will be the Coronation Cup, King George, the Arc and the Breeders' Cup."

The breeding shed's loss is now Cumani's gain and it can be argued the Italian deserves a change of luck with his better horses. The Newmarket trainer, as much as anyone, suffered when the Americans and the Aga Khan withdrew their good blood in the late 1980s. Now he's back. And this time he means business.

While Derby horses have been regularly whisked away, the overall pattern recently has been for more quality animals to stay in training. "I think the trend has been bucked," Stroud added. "Peintre Celebre, Swain, Singpiel

and Pilsudski have shown that. It was different in the days of El Gran Senor and The Minstrel, but now it's changed."

Sheikh Obaid himself will hardly have been put off by his great good fortune this year. He has an interest in just three horses a season and, this campaign, has been represented by High-Rise and the filly Zomaradah, who won the Group One Oaks d'Italia at Milan in May. He has earned over £1m in prize money. He's also probably very good at Trifectas.

Perhaps the Sheikh's only disappointment of the season was when High-Rise surrendered his unbeaten record at Ascot. "Looking back on the King George, he was a bit unlucky," Stroud said. "Olivier [Plesier] got himself into a pocket, running up horses, and Swain went at that vital time."

"We lost half a length and, though we might not have won, we would have finished closer. We lost impetus, but Swain is a battler and if the two had got down to running head-to-head it would have been an interesting contest."

"But we didn't lose anything in defeat. It doesn't undervalue him to lose to a champion. He's a horse to look forward to. It's good to have heroes."



High-Rise's famous finishing burst will be on show again next season Reuters

Hard To Figure fails by a neck

EVERGREEN SPRINTER Hard To Figure is booked for another attempt to win the claimer named after him following a narrow defeat in his own race at Bath yesterday.

The 12-year-old, trying to win for the 18th time in a 123-race career, was beaten a neck by

Mick Channon's Canda Equina. Ron Hodges, his trainer, said afterwards: "We'll just have to come back next year and try to go one better."

"He ran a good race and, as always, tried his heart out; it's just a shame he could not win his own race, but that's the

way it is. He's been a really good servant to the yard and I wish we had a few more like him."

Channon reckoned Canda Equina was not winning out of turn, and added: "If ever there was a race set up for one horse that was it, but my fellow deserves to get his head in front."

BRIGHTON

2.40 Goodwood Jazz
3.10 Canyonville
3.40 April Stock

GOING: Good to Firm.
STALLS: 10-15, 16-20, 21-25, 26-30, 31-35, 36-40, 41-45, 46-50, 51-55, 56-60, 61-65, 66-70, 71-75, 76-80, 81-85, 86-90, 91-95, 96-100, 101-105, 106-110, 111-115, 116-120, 121-125, 126-130, 131-135, 136-140, 141-145, 146-150, 151-155, 156-160, 161-165, 166-170, 171-175, 176-180, 181-185, 186-190, 191-195, 196-200, 201-205, 206-210, 211-215, 216-220, 221-225, 226-230, 231-235, 236-240, 241-245, 246-250, 251-255, 256-260, 261-265, 266-270, 271-275, 276-280, 281-285, 286-290, 291-295, 296-300, 301-305, 306-310, 311-315, 316-320, 321-325, 326-330, 331-335, 336-340, 341-345, 346-350, 351-355, 356-360, 361-365, 366-370, 371-375, 376-380, 381-385, 386-390, 391-395, 396-400, 401-405, 406-410, 411-415, 416-420, 421-425, 426-430, 431-435, 436-440, 441-445, 446-450, 451-455, 456-460, 461-465, 466-470, 471-475, 476-480, 481-485, 486-490, 491-495, 496-500, 501-505, 506-510, 511-515, 516-520, 521-525, 526-530, 531-535, 536-540, 541-545, 546-550, 551-555, 556-560, 561-565, 566-570, 571-575, 576-580, 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Fast, fan friendly – but full of faults

John Roberts gives his verdict on the experimental new deuce rule that will be introduced at some tournaments to try to speed up tennis for television

SINCE THE last ball was struck at Wimbledon, a period of comparative tranquillity has been interrupted by some blarney from Killarney. The International Tennis Federation, at its annual meeting in Ireland, indicated that it was prepared to tinker with the game in order to satisfy the demands of television.

While that hardly distinguishes the ITF from other custodians of sports, there are occasions when aspects fundamental to the nature of a contest need to be protected. In this instance, preservation orders ought to be slapped on the "advantage" point and the service let.

The service let (where a serve is retaken if the ball touches the net before landing good) is not in imminent danger. An ITF proposal for its abolition was withdrawn "pending further research, analysis and consultation over the next 12 months". So, for the moment, we shall not see the ball trip over the net-cord and be declared an ace.

What we shall see, at least at a number of the smaller events during the next two years, is an experimental "no-ad" system, allowing games to be won on the first point after deuce. One benefit, according to the ITF, would be to "make matches shorter and therefore more fan friendly" and easier to schedule for television.

Ah, yes, television. As with football's "golden goal", the "no-ad" expedient appears to be another example of the McDonald's syndrome (for fast food read fast sport, easily packaged, readily consumed).

Tennis matches, being of indeterminate length, present particular problems for the media. The ITF, in common with the Grand Slam championships and the men's and women's professional tours, are acutely aware that they are in competition with other sports for television time. Care must be taken, however, not to erode the fabric.

An additional benefit of the "no-ad" system, the ITF contends, would be to "inject" another element of excitement into the game by having the potential for providing a climax in any game during the match, in a comparable way to that of the tie-break.

Sacrificed in the process would be an integral part of the psychological and physical duelling which makes tennis so fascinating. When the score reaches deuce, mental doors tend to open or close. One of the players, for example, might have fought back from 0-40. Will there be a sudden shift in confidence?

"If you get into a long deuce game you have a situation where you can wear your opponent down," observes John Newcombe, the Australian former Wimbledon champion and world No 1. "The no-ad rule was tried in college tennis in the States, and it made the tennis very mundane."

Although Andre Agassi in his younger days once described an ITF president as a "bozo", the American seems inclined to side with the establishment on some of the current issues. An excellent returner of serve, who memorably defeated Goran Ivanisevic in five sets in the 1992 Wimbledon final, Agassi would like to see service lets called as faults. He is also in favour of the introduction of a "no-ad" system.

"If a guy is serving at 40-30 you have to win the next point and then win two in a row," says Agassi. "Now, if you had to win one of the next two points, there is a heck of a chance you are going to break the guy. If you are playing against Sampras and he is serving at 15-40, there is still a 60 per cent chance he is going to hold serve. A no-ad scoring system and that drops considerably, to maybe a 23 per cent chance he is going to hold serve."

While understanding Agassi's preoccupation with breaking Pete Sampras' serve, your correspondent still regards the "no-ad" system as a potential passion killer.

For example, we would have been denied the 20-minute game between Steffi Graf and Arantxa Sanchez Vicario which transformed the 1995 Wimbledon women's singles final into one of the classics.

The marathon game, in which Sanchez Vicario was serving at one set all and 5-5, comprised 32 points, including 13 deuces, six break points and eight game points. Under the "no-ad" system, Sanchez Vicario would have held serve within five minutes with a forehand pass down the line after the first deuce. Instead, 25 points later, she was broken, unable to control her backhand in attempting to parry a trademark Graf forehand.

One-day tournaments at club level, where time is tight, sometimes adopt a "one-ad" system. If the score goes back to deuce after the first advantage, the next point wins. This compromise, while preferable to "no-ad", still dilutes the sport as a comprehensive test of skill, nerve and endurance.

At the professional level, corporate-speak (e.g. "growing the game") tends to proliferate along with the burgeoning financial structure. Such is the obsession with numbers that it may not be long before someone considers simplifying the scoring of games by using 1, 2, 3, 4.

For the uninitiated, the traditional system of scoring, admittedly quaint, derives from real, or royal, tennis, and is based on the habit of using the clock face to record points.



Steffi Graf cleared the way to her 1995 Wimbledon victory by overcoming Arantxa Sanchez Vicario in a 20-minute game. That would not be possible under proposed new rules

David Ashdown

TWENTY MINUTES THAT THRILLED THE WORLD

THE 20-MINUTE game between Steffi Graf and Arantxa Sanchez Vicario in the 1995 women's singles final, which Graf won 4-6, 6-1, 7-5, has passed into Wimbledon lore. It is remembered alongside the 20-minute tie-break between John McEnroe and Bjorn Borg in the fourth set of the 1980 men's final, which the American won 18-16, only to lose in the fifth set, and the 112-game match between Pancho Gonzales and Charlie Pasarell in 1969.

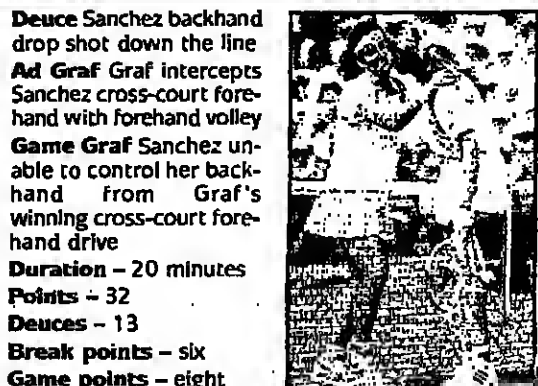
This is how the points were decided in that famous game between Graf and Sanchez Vicario:
0-15 Sanchez forehand long
15-15 Graf wide on forehand returning second serve
30-15 Netted forehand by Graf
30-30 Sanchez forehand over baseline

40-30 Sanchez forehand drop shot
Deuce Graf forehand winner
Advantage Sanchez
Forehand pass down line (Under the ITF's experimental scoring system the game would have ended there, with Sanchez holding serve for 6-5)
Deuce Sanchez wide with cross-court backhand
Ad Sanchez Ace
Deuce Graf passes with

cross-court backhand service return
Ad Graf Sanchez nets backhand
Deuce Graf hits forehand long from deep Sanchez backhand
Ad Sanchez Forehand cross-court pass
Deuce Graf backhand pass from Sanchez stop-volley
Ad Sanchez Graf backhand wide from Sanchez backhand to corner
Deuce Sanchez wide with backhand down the line

Ad Sanchez Graf nets forehand approach
Deuce Graf hits forehand long from deep Sanchez backhand
Ad Sanchez Forehand cross-court pass
Deuce Graf backhand pass from Sanchez stop-volley
Ad Sanchez Graf backhand wide from Sanchez backhand to corner
Deuce Sanchez wide with backhand down the line

Deuce Sanchez Graf long drop shot down the line
Ad Graf Graf intercepts Sanchez cross-court forehand with forehand volley
Game Graf Sanchez unable to control her backhand from Graf's winning cross-court forehand drive
Duration – 20 minutes
Points – 32
Deuces – 13
Break points – six
Game points – eight



THE LONGEST AND SHORTEST MATCHES



The longest Grand Slam singles match ever recorded was on the clay courts at the French Open on 31 May this year. Alex Corretja (left) of Spain, beat Hernan Gumy of Argentina, in the third round of the men's singles, 6-1, 5-7, 6-7, 7-5, 9-7, after five hours and 31 minutes.

Longest Wimbledon finals

Men's singles: four hours and 16 minutes (1982), Jimmy Connors beat John McEnroe, 3-6, 6-3, 6-7 (2-7), 7-6 (7-5), 6-4.

Women's singles: two hours 28 mins (1970), Margaret Court beat Billie Jean King 14-12, 11-9.

Men's doubles: five hours and one minute (1992), John McEnroe and Michael Stich beat Jim Grabb and Richey Reneberg 5-7, 7-6 (7-5), 3-6, 7-6 (7-5), 19-17.

Women's doubles: two hours and 49 minutes (1988), Steffi Graf and Gabriela Sabatini beat Larisa Savchenko and Natasha Zvereva 6-3, 1-6, 12-10.

Shortest Wimbledon finals

Men's singles: 37 minutes (1881), William Renshaw beat Rev John Hartley 6-0, 6-1, 6-1.

Women's singles: 23 minutes (1922), Suzanne Lenglen beat Molla Mallory 6-2, 6-0.

TIME AND MOTION STUDY

	1970s	1990s
ON GRASS (the fastest surface)		
Length of point	3.8sec	2.7sec
Ball in play per hour	7min 18sec	3min 55sec
Rest between points	17.6sec	27.4sec
Changeover times	55.2sec	86.9sec
ON CLAY (the slowest surface)		
Length of point	9.2sec	8.2sec
Ball in play per hour	13min 41sec	13min 01sec
Rest between points	20.6sec	21.0sec
Changeover times	63.2sec	69.3sec

Research by ATP Tour in 1992

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"Love", the term for nil, probably is a corruption of the French l'oeuf (the egg) and is related to a "duck" in cricket. Deuce (40-all, or three points each), is from the French deux, meaning two more to win.

A set is "deuced" when the score becomes five games all, after which a player must be two games ahead (a rule which still applies in the final sets of Wimbledon matches) unless the score becomes 6-6, at which stage the tie-break comes into play.

The tie-break, originated by an American, Jimmy van Allen, was a response to television's need for shorter matches after interest in the sport soared following the advent of open tennis 30 years ago. A successful ITF experiment in 1970 validated the innovation (Wimbledon adopted the tie-break at eight games all in 1971 and at six games all in 1979).

Net-cords in open play are accepted as part of the luck of the game. Boris Becker comes to mind as a particular beneficiary, his backhand drive fluffing against the top of the net and "dying" in Ivan Lendl's court on the concluding point of a fifth set tie-break in the final of the 1988 Masters (now the ATP Tour World Championship).

The difference between that type of incident and a serve clipping the net and dropping over for an ace, traditionalists argue, is that the opponent would not have an opportunity to participate in the point. Pure aces, of course, represent one of the skills of the sport.

Methods of making tennis more interesting are constantly under review. A few years ago, at the height of a debate concerning the power and speed of the men's game,

the ATP Tour produced some interesting statistics comparing the 1990s with the 1970s. Research showed that the amount of time the ball was in play per hour on grass was down to 3min 55sec compared with 7min 18sec in the 1970s. The length of points on grass had reduced from 3.8sec to 2.7sec.

A player such as Ivanisevic is capable of reducing points to a single shot. As Sampras, the five-times Wimbledon champion and winner of 11 Grand Slam singles titles, observes: "Give Goran a basketball, and he'll still hit an ace."

Billie Jean King, winner of a record 20 Wimbledon titles (six singles, 10 doubles, four mixed doubles), and triumphant against the middle-aged Bobby Riggs in the 1973 "Battle of the Sexes" match at the Houston Astrodome, continues to press for equality.

"I wish the men would play only two out of three sets instead of three out of five," she says. "It's boring, five sets. This is the 1990s."

In the modern game, players are taking more time between points to mop their brow, check their racket strings, knock the court surface off the soles of their shoes (even if the surface is artificial), tug at their garments and exercise their limbs. And that is before they get to sit down and rest during changeovers (chairs were first provided on court at Wimbledon in 1975).

The spectacle of players sitting down and taking a break after the opening game of a match is a source of hilarity or irritation, depending on the point of view. Of course, changeovers do provide an ideal opportunity for television companies to run commercials, the most profitable ad points.

Huddersfield seek cash injection

RUGBY LEAGUE
BY DAVE HADFIELD

HUDDERSFIELD, STINGING from their worst defeat of the season, want to stop being the poor men of Super League.

The club is fighting with one hand tied behind its back, without a share of the News Corporation money to finance its efforts to become competitive.

"We don't want to be moaning minnies," said their chairman, Ken Davy. "But it has been very difficult to compete when something we were expecting to receive hasn't happened. We are not even getting as much as we did last season."

Huddersfield volunteered to

come into Super League this season as an extra club without the same funding as other sides. "But we replaced Paris as the 12th team and expected to be funded accordingly," said Davy. "We are working towards a settlement with the Rugby League for this season and we will get our full share next year."

Davy is in no hurry to make a new coaching appointment, following the dismissal of Garry Schofield two weeks ago, but says the interest in the job is a vote of confidence.

"We are very encouraged by the amount of interest shown in the vacancy, including some very high-profile people," said Davy.

The caretaker-coach, Phil Veivers, has declared himself a candidate, but his most immediate task

is to rebuild morale after the 68-18 defeat at St Helens.

Sheffield Eagles have called a press conference for today to allay any fears that their coach, John Kear, might be on his way to St Helens.

Paul Rowley, of Halifax, and Castleford's forward, Michael Smith, have been told they have no case to answer after incidents for which they were placed on report at the weekend.

Almost a fifth of players polled by the Australian magazine, *Rugby League Week*, say that they have been offered a performance-enhancing drug. More still, 23 per cent compared with 17 per cent say they are aware of clubs where officials have run drug programmes.

The findings have deepened concern about how deep the drugs

problem runs in the game in Australia. Four prominent players, three of them from the ARL champions, the Newcastle Knights, have been caught using steroids and suspended this season.

Two of Australia's biggest clubs, Parramatta and Penrith, are set to merge. Along with the amalgamations of St George and Illawarra, South Sydney and Cronulla, plus others in the pipeline, that will put high quality players on the market.

Gateshead, Cardiff and Swansea, whose applications for franchises will be ruled upon next week, will all see that as strengthening their case.

The Rugby League is close to finalising a deal with Granada and Yorkshire Television to screen First Division matches next summer.

Fisher bides his time

EQUESTRIANISM
BY GENEVIEVE MURPHY
in Dublin

THE KERRYGOLD Dublin Horse Show, which begins its five-day run this morning, may prove to have far more than its usual significance in the formation of the Great Britain team for a major championship – in this case the World Equestrian Games to be held in Rome in October.

Both the top two partnerships in the current series of international team trials (James Fisher on Renville and Di Lampard on Abbeville Dream) will be competing. So will Nick Skelton on a horse with a burgeoning reputation, David Broome's Virtual Village Hopes are High.

They will be joined by John Whitaker (whose two mounts include the Windsor Grand Prix winner, Diamond Cliff) and Carl Edwards. Robert Smith competes as an individual. He will be hoping to repeat last year's victory when he competes in the closing Kerrygold Grand Prix on Sunday.

This will be Fisher's first appearance in the splendid Ballsbridge showground and his form here may help him to decide whether to accept a place on the squad for the World Games. He is automatically qualified having won the first three team trials on Renville.

So far Fisher has declined to say whether or not he will take up the challenge. He has yet to be convinced that the careful and consis-

tent Renville is capable of tackling championship courses.

Ronnie Massarella, the Great Britain team manager, will probably delay naming his quartet to compete against six other countries in the Samsung Nations Cup on Friday. The most interesting combination he could pick would be the Dutch-bred Renville and three Irish-bred horses: Abbeville Dream, Hopes are High and Diamond Cliff.

The Ireland team, which has been growing in strength in recent years, will be formidable opponents as they attempt to follow last year's victory. The other countries – Belgium, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands and Switzerland – will be represented by riders who are eager to make their mark but are not yet established.

Joe Vines 1:50

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SPORT

LITTLE AT LARGE P20 • DISADVANTAGE TENNIS P24

Hendry so happy to be home at last

FOOTBALL

BY NICK HARRIS

COLIN HENDRY yesterday fulfilled his long-held ambition of joining Rangers as he completed a £4m move from Blackburn Rovers to Ibrox.

The 32-year-old Scotland captain has been at the centre of protracted negotiations for his services since learning of Rangers' interest some weeks ago. Rovers were loath to lose their inspirational defender and initially demanded £5.15m for him, while Rangers were only prepared to pay £2.5m, given the player's age.

But, after a weekend of lengthy negotiations between the Ibrox chairman, David Murray, and his Blackburn counterpart, Jack Walker, a compromise solution was found involving payments dependent on appearances at club and international level.

Hendry declared himself "ecstatic" after signing a four-year contract to become the eighth summer signing of Dick Advocaat's short reign as the Rangers manager.

"It has always been my desire to come here for the most part of my career and my name has been mentioned in connection with them for the last

few close seasons now," Hendry said. "It was a big factor for me as a professional footballer at the highest level of the game to be playing for arguably the biggest club in Britain. It was also very important for my family to come back to Scotland, as I have mentioned before."

Hendry is ineligible for Rangers' second Uefa Cup qualifying round tie against the Greek side PAOK Salonika next week, but he could make his debut a week on Saturday in the Premier League match against Motherwell.

Elsewhere in Scotland yesterday, the former Rangers striker, Ally McCoist, 36, ended speculation over where he would continue a career he has recently been tempted to retire from by signing for Kilmarnock.

Pierre van Hooijdonk, Nottingham Forest's Dutch striker, last night insisted that he will not be returning to the club, even though he could face the prospect of being suspended from all football.

Van Hooijdonk still has four years of his contract to run but yesterday told his manager, Dave Bassett, that the Forest board lacks sufficient ambition to keep him interested in playing at the City Ground.

Forest could stop Van Hooijdonk from playing elsewhere, but he is hoping they will instead agree to the transfer request which was rejected last week - a decision which led him to remain in his native country. Forest may yet cancel Kevin Campbell's uncompleted move to Trabzonspor in Turkey if they decide to let Van Hooijdonk to leave.

Bradford City have halted the proposed £900,000 transfer of Samassi Abou from West Ham after it was discovered the player was suffering from malaria, thought to have been contracted during a trip to the Ivory Coast during the close season. Bolton have completed the free transfer of the 19-year-old Icelandic striker Einar Gudjohnson from PSV Eindhoven. Super League intrigue, page 6

End is nigh for Gascoigne

PAUL GASCOIGNE'S days as an international player are over if the England squad announced yesterday is any indication.

The Middlesbrough player's name was not among the 29 called by Glenn Hoddle for two days' early preparations for the first Euro 2000 qualifying game, against Sweden next month.

Although Hoddle said last night that the door is not shut for him, it would probably take a dramatic rediscovery of form and fitness for Gascoigne to earn a recall. The get-together, between 16 to 18 August, shows Hoddle's vision for the future rests in youth.

Liverpool and Arsenal players are unavailable due to club duties, but even without Tony Adams, David Seaman, Ray Parlour, Martin Keown, Michael Owen, Steve McManaman, Jamie Redknapp, Paul Ince and Dominic Matteo, there is still no place for Gascoigne. At the age of 31, there seems little time left for a reconciliation between the playmaker and the coach who dropped him from his France 98

squad. Gascoigne's advisor, Mel Stein, said yesterday: "The England manager picks the squad and the England players available for selection have to respect his decision."

International experience still has its place in Hoddle's plans with Ian Wright and Andy Finch both back in the fold. Seven young uncapped players are also included, including Leicester's striker, Emile Heskey, and Coventry's forward, Darren Huckerby.

The only notable absentee due to injury is the Newcastle midfielder David Batty, who would have been likely to have been included had he been fit. ENGLAND SQUAD (preparation for Euro 2000): T. Flowers (Blackburn), N. Martin (Leeds), I. Walker (Tottenham), R. Wright (Ipswich), S. Campbell (Rotherham), W. Gullin (Sheff Wed), C. Searles (Newcastle), K. Dyer (Ipswich), O. Huckerby (Coventry), R. Ferdinand (Sheff Wed), G. Southgate (Preston Villa), G. Neville (Manchester United), P. Neville (Manchester United), O. Anderson (Tottenham), O. Beckham (Manchester United), G. Leaux (Chelsea), A. Hinchcliffe (Sheff Wed), N. Burt (Manchester United), R. Lee (Newcastle), D. Eadie (Norwich), S. Heskey (Leicester), P. Merson (Middlesbrough), P. Scholes (Manchester United), L. Ferdinand (Tottenham), A. Shearer (Newcastle), T. Sheringham (Manchester United), D. Batty (Coventry), I. Wright (West Ham), A. Cole (Manchester United).



The England coach, David Lloyd, puts Mark Ramprakash through his paces yesterday in the build-up to the Headingley Test. Allsport

Ramprakash hoping to be fit for vital Test

CRICKET

BY MYLES HODGSON

MARK RAMPRAKASH successfully came through a voluntary net session at Headingley yesterday to calm England's fears about his fitness for the deciding Test against South Africa, which starts tomorrow.

The Middlesbrough batsman has suffered from tonsillitis since just before the last Test at Trent Bridge, where he shrugged off his discomfort to score an unbeaten 67 in England's first innings.

The illness has lingered in the week since England levelled the series with an eight-wick-

et victory in Nottingham, putting Ramprakash's participation at Headingley in doubt.

But there is a desire within the England camp to play in this crucial Test and Ramprakash was joined by Andrew Flintoff, captain Alec Stewart, Michael Atherton and Nasser Hussain at the voluntary session.

"I'm hoping to play, but the illness does leave me feeling a little tired and lethargic," Ramprakash admitted.

"I never really got rid of it since before the Trent Bridge Test and then I played six successive games including the NatWest quarter-final."

"The blood tests I have had have all come back fine. They

have ruled out glandular fever or anything like that."

The chairman of selectors, David Graveney, said: "I would be amazed if he is not fit enough to play."

The match referee, Ahmed Elsharif, is expected to speak to the South African fast bowler Allan Donald about his criticism of the handling of the Nottingham Test by the umpire Mervyn Kitchen before making a decision about whether to take disciplinary action.

Donald claimed Kitchen made "a few shocking decisions" and "looked like he was struggling" - a clear breach of clause eight of the International Cricket Council's Code of Conduct.

Police 'spotters' go on Test alert

POLICE INTEND to utilise football intelligence and high technology to avert any crowd trouble at the fifth Test between England and South Africa, starting at Headingley tomorrow.

Trouble has occurred in previous years on the Western Terrace, which houses 6,000 spectators and traditionally attracts the rowdier element of the Headingley crowd.

And after unruly behaviour during the first Test at Edgbaston earlier this year, West Yorkshire Police have adopted similar methods to those used by their colleagues at the National Football Intelligence Unit.

They will employ plain-clothed "spotters", with knowledge of known local hooligans, and video surveillance equip-

ment, the first time such tactics have been used at a Test ground in this country.

Inspector David Boyle, the match commander for police operations at Headingley, explained: "There is increasing evidence that people are attending in order to extend their football xenophobia within cricket."

The drive to prevent soccer-type hooliganism creeping into cricket follows a number of serious incidents during Headingley Tests. These have included a pig's head being paraded on the Western Terrace during the visit of Pakistan in 1992 while the reserve wicket-keeper Tim Zoehrer was punched as he got on to the Australian coach during the 1993 Ashes series. The measures

are to be used in conjunction with an alcohol ban on the Terrace while spectators sitting in other areas will be limited to one bottle or four cans each.

The restrictions on fancy dress, first implemented during the Texaco Trophy match at Headingley and also adopted at Old Trafford for the third Test, will again be in force.

Yorkshire still have tickets available despite the explosion of interest in the aftermath of England's Trent Bridge victory when 15,000 were sold in a week to pass the £1m mark.

Nearly 6,000 are available for Thursday, 1,000 for Friday and 2,000 for Saturday and the chief executive, Chris Hassell, said: "Trent Bridge was just what we needed."

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A faraway look comes into people's eyes when mention is made of the South of France. For most, it is the capital of chic: a sun-kissed playground of exotic resorts and spectacular scenery studded with ancient vineyards - among them, La Motte, La Boudandiere and Les Garrigues de Truilhas, where James Herrick makes the definitive Midi Chardonnay. Rich, stylish and full of taste; fresh, yet fruity and long-finishing. And amazingly inexpensive. Why settle for vin ordinaire when you can afford the glorious South?

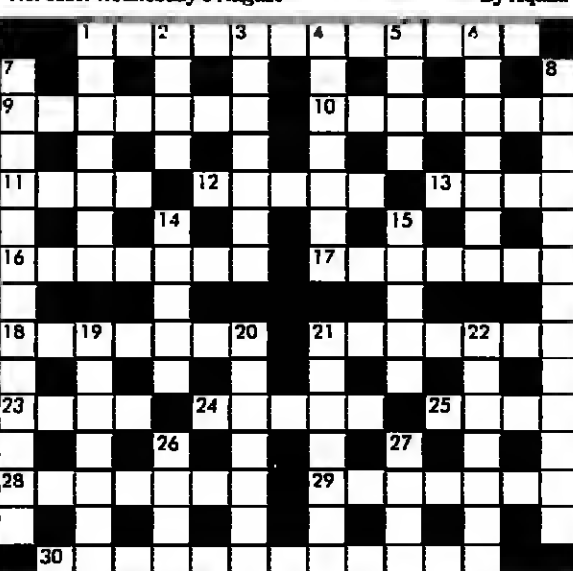
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THE INDEPENDENT CROSSWORD

No. 3681. Wednesday 5 August

By Aquila

Tuesday's Solution



- ACROSS
- Works with loud weapons in ranges of intense activity (7,5)
 - Silver ring stuck in the sand (7)
 - Lend one's name to bending spoons, right (7)
 - Measure of a road at end of Tewkesbury (4)
 - Clement silly, we hear (5)
 - Window-frame of southern wood (4)
 - Fellow away from coast, in the country (7)
 - Packer's trouble free hold-alls (7)
 - Awkward being lame (7)
 - Still remains to be seen, his charge (7)
 - Fast lane, or endlessly slow one (4)
 - Alarm on the watch (5)

- DOWN
- Bag for a cup of tea (4)
 - Is most earth delivered to them? (7)
 - Football team stumbling over net (7)
 - Advice has top order in lawyer's office (12)
 - Stronghold managed with computer language (7)
 - Ball hidden in trophy? What a howl! (4)
 - Game with a long shelf-life (3,4)
 - Muslim woman wear it out (7)
 - Australian opening spinner in a superior position (4)
 - Mother conceals a mark that could give her a black-eye (7)



Published by Independent Newspapers (UK) Limited, 1 Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 5OL, and printed at Mirror Colour Press, St Albans Road, Watford

Back issues available from Historic Newspapers. 01908 840370.

Wednesday 5 August 1998

Registered as a newspaper with the Post Office

John 11:150

WEDNESDAY REVIEW

COMMENT • FEATURES • ARTS • LISTINGS • TELEVISION



Tom Pilston

Peter Divine, a retired lorry driver from Brad- ford, is sporting an impressive straw hat in Australian bushwhacker style. Pinned inside the band is a label warning of the dangers of exposure to too much sun. There seems little risk in Skegness. Not today, anyway. It's a blustery July morning during which the sun makes only fleeting appearances between thick banks of cloud.

Deter Divine, a retired lorry driver from Bradford, is sporting an impressive straw hat in Australian bushwhacker style. Fanned inside the band is a label warning of the dangers of exposure to too much sun. There seems little risk in *Sleazeboss*. Not today, anyway. It's a blustery July morning during which the sun makes only fleeting appearances between thick banks of cloud.

As Peter ~~swims~~ out from the many glass-and-steel shelters ranged along the front, the main danger is that the bracing trellis will whip away his hair. Luckily it is tethered by a leather thong around his jaw, just as clearly, the trellis could be half way to the North Sea, which is clearly visible in the middle distance beyond a lengthy stretch of sand. Peter's daughter, Debbie, has just slugged to the shoreline and back with some of the six pale and freckly children she shares with her sister Michelle. "We just paddled," says Debbie. The blue EU flag, hanging out stiffly from a nearby pole, proclaims the water here safe for bathing. But very few souls are hardy enough to take the plunge. And who can blame them? Even in August, the North Atlantic is colder than the Mediterranean.

Both Peter and Debbie have seen the Med. He's been to Malta with his wife. She's been to Ibiza with the kids and her former husband. On the whole, they prefer Skagness. "For entertainment and food, England's the best," says Peter. "There's no danger is there? You don't know what you're eating when you're abroad."

Debbie finishes her carton of mushy peas with mint sauce and says: "All there is abroad really is sand, sun and water." Also, loud disco music when they went to San Antonio, Ibiza. "We were put near one of those 18-30 holiday mobs," she says. "They kept us awake all night. It wasn't really suitable for a family."

She much prefers a caravan site on the east coast of England. "There's amusements and a club with karaoke," she says. "And there's a fairground up the road." Michelle nods enthusiastically. She has never been abroad, and doesn't intend to start now.

She is not alone. Far from it. Every time England is hit by a poor summer, the obituaries are written for the traditional English seaside holiday. Prematurely, it would seem, if Skegness really anything to go by. Every year it accounts for what the Skegness Tourist Board calls "5 million bed-nights". When day-

...to this equation, a population of around 16,000 well to something like 200,000.

centre. When there is no shortage of visitors during my stay. Two
three people in the town had the warmest day so far this year. It made
was to the *Stegness News* in a story that began: "We're
about wave." That, too, would appear to be premature.

A cloud is looming over the Festival Pavilion and, just before mid-day, the beach is doused with a sharp but short shower.

"I'm not staying here to get drowned," Bill Johnson, a former Grimethorpe miner, tells his grandson as he folds up two blue-and-white-striped deckchairs and prepares to abandon a wonderfully elaborate sandcastle he has spent hours constructing.

He does, though, delay his departure from the front long enough to tell me that he and his wife, Maureen, have previously enjoyed holidays in Bulgaria and the former Yugoslavia. "We were in Yugoslavia when the war started," he confides. "They had to cancel when the war started. We haven't been back since."

Despite the rain, Bill seems glad to be back in Skegness for the first time since he and Maureen came to Butlin's here four years ago. "They've done it up a bit since then and I think they've

done a good job," he says.



The sensual pleasures of the Mediterranean are still lost on some Britons - fortunately for many of our seaside towns. And though good weather is promised for this weekend the breezes of Skegness remain forever bracing

Hunkered behind their windbreak, Brian and Janine Hoyle from Huddersfield have braved the shower and are now being rewarded with a shaft of sunlight. It glints on Brian's gold medallion, clearly visible through the V of his white sports shirt, which matches his white trainers and white socks. "If you go abroad, it's too hot for the kids," says Janine, a play group supervisor, as her own children, Katie (eight) and Jonathan (four), play in the sand.

"It depends what you want," says Brian, a purchasing controller. "You can guarantee the weather abroad, but that's all you get. There's not the amenities in terms of entertainment." What about the food?

BY CHRIS ARNOT

"Well, we went all over Italy before we had the kids, and I love Italian food. But you can get that anywhere. It's the same with your curry. That's no longer just an Indian dish, is it?"

At the nearby Boating Lake Café, the dish of the day is "beef stew and chips". An enormous woman who has a roll of fat protruding from her back like a bolster is at an outside table and putting away fish and chips as though her life depended on it.

I stroll on though the wedge of commercial activity that separates the beach from the promenade. Past the Jolly Roger Adventure Golf, past Lena Petriengro, the Romany palmist, past the Children's Adventure Centre and the advertisements for the Embassy Theatre. Row "Chukker" Beach is in town and we're in-

There are sunbaths in the nearby swimming-pool-endowed "fitness suite" and, coincidentally no doubt, the café across the way is playing "A Whiter Shade of Pale" through its speakers.

Across the road, the businesses in the Oasis Food Court are involved in cut-throat, cut-price competition. "The cheapest rock in Skegness: 18 sticks for a pound," proclaims one sign. "Foot-long sausage and chips: £1.50," says another, perhaps with Club-

I find this offer easy to resist and decide instead to reacquaint

myself with Shipstone's Bitter at the Shades pub opposite Woolworths. Inside, a robust discussion is going on about proposals for 24-hour licensing. "It'll lead to more violence," explains one of the barmen, "because more people will be pissed."

"Well, you can only drink so much before you fall over," says a customer, with irrefutable logic. The barman shuts up. This seems wise. The customer bears an uncanny resemblance to Les Battersby, the middle-aged yob of *Coronation Street*. He's

Barman, the middle-aged son of a Cuban-born street tie, is wearing a vest. So is his woman companion, who has broader shoulders and bigger tattoos. The barman is wearing a polo shirt inscribed with the old-fashioned homily: "The best things in life are free." It seems like a good cue to return to the beach.

Beyond the donkeys, and adjacent to the Mr Softy ice-cream van, Tom Linton is putting the finishing touches to a sandcastle with even more turrets than Bill Johnson's. His granddaughter, wrapped in a towel and shivering in her pushchair, looks less than impressed.

But his son Paul, only six years older, appears to be satisfied. Tom's wife, Glenys, looks on proudly. "We just enjoy a British holiday," she says. "He likes roast beef and Yorkshire pud. No foreign food for him."

Tom is a security guard from Goole, near Hull; Glenys is a housewife. "This is a *Sun* holiday," she says, and I must look baffled because she goes on: "You know: the newspaper. It was a special offer - five days in a caravan for £15 each."

If that's the cheapest holiday in Skegness, the Vine Hotel almost certainly offers the most expensive. Ivy-clad, three-star and RAC-recommended, it stands aloof on the edge of town, a cut above the rest. Bed and breakfast here costs £45 a night, which

A Greek island, or Skegness? For many people there's no competition: Skegness every time. They want to travel no further east than the Lincolnshire coast when they're in the UK. It's a bit of a cliché, but it's true. Skegness is a popular holiday destination for many people, and it's no wonder. The town is known for its beautiful beaches, its vibrant nightlife, and its rich history. It's a place where you can relax and enjoy the sun, or you can party all night long. Whatever you want to do, Skegness has it all.

or south than this sandy place where, as Philip Larkin might have put it (if he hadn't been in Hull at the time), "sky and Lincolnshire and water meet".

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Asylum policy

Sir: Jack Straw and his Shadow Cabinet colleagues were unequivocal in their opposition, on both moral and practical terms, to the Tory government's withdrawal of welfare benefits to a large percentage of asylum seekers in February 1996. It was a measure which they considered tantamount to an attempt to starve them out of the country. Now, just over a year after taking office, they have gone even further than the Tories in proposing to terminate cash payments to all asylum seekers, allegedly to deter economic migrants.

The Government's newly released White Paper on the entire asylum and immigration sector is entitled "Fairer, Faster and Firmer" and repeats this mantra over and over again as only New Labour's zealots can. As long as torture victims have their medical reports published by the Home Office, failed asylum seekers are sent back to countries like Algeria, where 100,000 have died since 1991, and refugees are locked up without ever having committed a crime. I believe that "Cost-cutting, Crackdown and Control" would be a more apt soundbite for this Government's asylum and immigration policy.

HARVEY BURGESS

London N2

Man's best friend?

Sir: The Government announcement on new guidelines regulating xenotransplantation may have given the false impression that animal to human transplants will be saving human lives in the imminent future (report, 31 July). In reality, a combination of hype and hope has obscured the fact that the obstacles to xenotransplantation ever becoming a clinical therapy are enormous.

The unpredictable consequences of the introduction of genetically modified pig tissue into living human subjects and, in particular, the well-reported risk of novel infectious diseases being introduced to the human population as a result of animal-to-human virus transfer overshadow all consideration of this matter. Best present evidence indicates that this latter risk cannot be completely eliminated; the possibility of this potentially devastating eventuality must be balanced against a realistic assessment of the likely success of the procedure.

Animal and human organs differ in numerous ways: in their production of and response to hormones; in their rates of filtration, secretion and absorption of electrolytes, enzymes, and other chemical substances; in their immunological and histological properties; in their physical structure; and not least their expected longevity. Any one of these multiple discrepancies could prove an insurmountable obstacle to the success of this procedure: in examination they are likely to prove fatal to it. A chain is only as strong as its weakest link.

In 1993 it was claimed that they were ready to proceed to human clinical trials has been proven irresponsible to the point of recklessness by the stringent regulation the Government has subsequently introduced. The implication now that a cure to the shortage of organs for transplant is only a few animal experiments away raises premature, and almost certainly false, hope. Xenotransplantation is not a panacea: it is speculative, potentially dangerous, and more a product of the financial high-risk-high reward principles of commercial biotechnology than a considered and prudent response to the organ shortage.

ALISTAIR CURRIE

Sheffield

Sir: Steve Connor's article on xenotransplantation ("Why not have a heart-to-heart with a pig?" 1 August) was astonishingly simplistic. Creating genetically engineered pigs from which organs

can be taken and transplanted into humans, with the organ grafts surviving for over 60 days is a great breakthrough. However this is still only a small step towards successfully transplanting these organs into humans.

The issue of viral transmission is potentially extremely dangerous to the transplanted community and to the population at large and there will have to be conclusive studies done to show that transmission risk will be negligible before these transplants would be allowed to go ahead. This is particularly valid as there are other options for the number of organs from human donors both cadaveric and living.

To increase the numbers of transplants done, and so reduce the suffering of several thousand people in this country alone, human donation needs to be strongly encouraged. If we see pigs as the answer to the public need to start helping these patients now.

MS R STANFORD

Manchester

Local leadership

Sir: John Prescott's new White Paper on local government suggests that local authorities are "uniquely placed to provide vision and leadership to local communities". His officials, however, are worried that local authorities will be influenced by local interest groups and will not come to the "right" conclusion on this case the Department's view on housing requirements.

Does Mr Prescott want local authorities with powers, responsibilities and accountability for their actions; or does he want to be able to intervene whenever he or his officials disagree? Does he want a system of local government or a local agency for his Department?

Regrettably, the overwhelming bulk of legislation in the last 20 years has given successive

ministers wide-ranging, subjective powers to intervene and overrule. The number of directly accountable authorities has been overwhelmed by indirectly accountable quangos and other agencies.

The Government is in a unique position to offer a vision of a new constitution for this country and of a genuinely new relationship between central and local government. Is it up to the task?

GRAHAM FORSHAW

West Sussex County Council, Chichester

Blinded by science

Sir: Once again we have a distinguished scientist promoting science as a Good Thing (John Gribbin, "Why bother with science?", 29 July) as though the best path to honesty, integrity and morality lies in the methodology of science. If we use the words "science" and "scientist" in the same ill-defined, generalised way as he and other commentators do, we can quite forcefully say that

science usually leads to technocratic arrogance. Scientists can be as venal as any other professional for they will go where the big money is. Science is increasingly commercialised and likely to be less open.

We have been brainwashed into thinking that science produces clear-cut answers, which of course it does within a certain domain of study. In the real, messy world of human affairs, hardly anything is clear-cut. It does not need the "honesty, integrity and morality" of science to see through meretricious advertising or political double-speak. Think of any recent controversy and you'll find one lot of scientists promoting a certain course of action with an equally qualified lot against it. What can even the moderately qualified layman make of it all? Science is synonymous with its applications: one technical fix produces unforeseen side-effects which in turn need another technical fix, and so it goes on. Let us have a more balanced debate

and less of the unwarranted triumphalism surrounding science and its achievements.

CHRISTOPHER HILL

Stockbridge, Hampshire

Garden care

Sir: Having recently read Sir Roy Strong's article ("Diana didn't want a garden", 28 July), I wonder if a memorial to the Princess of Wales could take the form of a hospital for children, with gardens designed as an essential part of every ward. As holistic treatments become more accepted, the idea of healing gardens is at last being recognised as a very real part of recovery from illness or as a way of easing the waiting for terminal patients and their families.

It is extraordinary that orthodox medical practice has not understood the part that can be played by plants, scents, water, colour and the quiet delight of watching insects hovering amongst flowers, or birds singing. The utter relief of having access to

a garden to get away from the sanitised stress, smells, noise and activity of a hospital ward is something which can enable a healing process to begin.

Each garden could reflect the needs of specific patients, some with plenty of space for wheelchairs, some with room to push beds into, others with sandpits and pools, fountains, scented plants and plants good to touch, different surfaces to walk on, lots of colour.

If there must be a garden by which to remember someone who we are told was not interested in gardens, then let it enhance and bring joy to a project which we are told was of real interest to her and which would help children with real needs.

PIPPA LANE

Hexham, Northumberland

God save us all

Sir: Win McCurrach, in calling for a new national anthem (Letters, 3 August), is wrong in thinking that the present anthem is a song to the monarch. It is a prayer to God, for the monarch and, as the monarch is head of the state in which we live, for all of us. In time of war, if the king or queen were "victorious", then we all would be, his or her enemies being our enemies. And what can possibly be wrong with praying that the head of state should "defend our laws", and that God should "save us all", unless of course your correspondent is an anarchist and atheist?

As for the anthem being 250 years old and bearing no relation to modern times, how relevant does Mrs McCurrach think her new anthem would be if it were to last, as she puts it, "for the next thousand years"? Can she seriously imagine that the French would give up the "Marseillaise", even though it recalls the worst excesses of a revolution which took place 210 years ago?

DONALD FOREMAN

London E4

Stop sex tourists

Sir: Your leader ("Two ways to stop paedophiles who travel for sex", 4 August) leaves out of account a further, and by far the most important, way of stopping the abuse of children through sex tourism. Most are from poor regions, and for them and for their families their part- or full-time prostitution is a major, perhaps the major, source of livelihood. It is economic circumstance which has created the cultural acceptance of this phenomenon - in which, incidentally, perhaps one in a hundred male tourists offered a young prostitute is identifiable as a paedophile.

In both the Philippines and Thailand the cause of labour migration and perurban slums is the unbalanced distribution of employment opportunity, with almost all industry and major commerce located in metropolitan areas. Poverty in the regions is, however, also the result of a lack of agricultural production development and markets, often contributed to by protectionism in the West.

The restriction on imports of the tapioca chips which could replace French beet in pig-feed supply to the EU, and US rice exports through food aid programmes, have for 30 years distorted the world food crop markets. This is to a massive extent to the detriment of Asian domestic small-scale producers and to the growth of industrial and commercial systems which might, over time, displace sex as a saleable commodity.

JOHN PILGRIM

Bath

RUC and Catholics

Sir: Christopher Armstrong's letter (3 August) about the Royal Ulster Constabulary seems to stem from a rather peculiar point of view. Surely the shortage of Roman Catholic officers in this very gallant force owes rather more to successful intimidation by nationalist terrorists than to any other reason? We should all thus have great admiration for those officers of that faith who have remained to serve the community, and not use their small numbers as an excuse to disband the RUC and thus hand yet another victory to terrorism.

THOMAS JONES

Orpington, Kent

Cruelty to goats

Sir: Your article, "Goats used by MoD in submarine experiments" (3 August) says, "A minority of the experiments was conducted on animals that had not been anaesthetised." What is so terrible about today's experiments is that an increasing number are psychological tests which have to be done on conscious animals to gauge their mental and physical endurance of pain and deprivation.

As the very purpose of these tests is to assess the animals' response to intense and intensive suffering, one wonders how, or if, their welfare can possibly be covered by the Animals Scientific Procedures Act 1986 which claims to limit the amount of suffering laboratory animals are exposed to.

MRS JOAN HAGGARD

Harpenden, Hertfordshire

Raise tobacco tax

Sir: Judith Draycott's assertion that the "only" solution to cross-border cigarette smuggling is "an immediate and substantial cut in cigarette tax" is short-sighted (letter 3 August).

Yes, tax rates are different across Europe. But given the wide-ranging health and social consequences of cigarette smoking, perhaps the better long-term solution is to campaign for the raising of all tobacco taxes. The evidence is overwhelming that we should seek to maintain disincentives to cigarette smoking, not remove them because other countries do not yet have the political will to tax.

PHILIP ISHERWOOD

Leigh, Lancashire

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Post letters to Letters to the Editor and include a daytime telephone number, fax to 0171 293 2056 or e-mail to letters@independent.co.uk
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Continuing our series on car boot sales, a pair of vendors display their wares at Flixton, near Bungay, Suffolk

Brian Harris

IN BRIEF

performance is chemically enhanced. I suspect that few, if any, of the latter would wish to accept the awards waiting for them, especially as they would be made of pottery.

ROBERT VINCENT

Andover, Hampshire

Sir: Well done the grandparents who managed to entertain their grandchildren without spending any extra money on them (letter, 3 August).

I sometimes shudder at the organised lives modern children seem to live. Modern parents seem to think that they are not doing right by their children if they are not ensuring that they take part in all sorts of organised activities

be it term time or holiday time. Some I know do something every night of the week.

Children, like adults, need space for imaginative play. To quote WH Davies, "What is this life, if full of care, we have no time to stand and stare?" Could this be why we are seeing more and more bored teenagers?

JEAN REYNOLDS

Waterlooville, Hampshire

Sir: In view of the ongoing debate about Scotland's relations with other countries within the British Isles, should not every local library in England, Wales and Northern Ireland carry at least one major Scottish journal so that people get a wider picture than soundbites on television?

ANDREW J T KEENE

Jedburgh, Roxburghshire

A huddle of Alf Garnetts from the Bunch of Grapes

FORGET THE Booker Prize. I have recently become involved in a much more exciting contest. Yes, I am proud to say that I have been invited to be a judge on the panel of the Pub Philosopher of the Year contest. The name is a bit misleading, because pub debate has nothing to do with philosophy and has more in common with pub fighting.

"There are five of us on the panel," the chairman, my old friend Adrian Wardour-Street, told me, "and we travel to all the pubs which enter the contest, and adjudicate their arguments. It's a bit like a pub quiz except that instead of them being given questions to answer, they're given subjects to argue on."

"What kind of subjects?" I wanted to know.

"Oh, some timeless things like whether the ends justify the means and some topical things, like Tony Blair's welfare state reforms."

"Philosophically speaking," I said, "I don't think you can actually discuss Blair's welfare reform, because there is no such thing. It does not exist, except as a concept. Can one discuss something which owes its existence solely to being announced..."

"This is exactly the sort of thing we're trying to avoid," said Adrian. "Contestants will lose marks heavily for that sort of pseudo-philosophical claptrap. What we want is real pub argument. But you'll get the idea when you do a bit of judging at the first preliminary round, which is next week in Kent somewhere - the Bunch of Grapes against the Crooked Billet. Should be fun..."

And it was quite fun in its own way. The Bunch of Grapes had a team of three men who were all a bit like Alf Garnett - unbeatable in argument as long as you accepted their unacceptable premises - while the Crooked Billet were playing clever in their team selection: one black guy, one woman and one white guy who was gay. It was like seeing the England rugby scrum take on a trio of New Labour spin doctors - not pretty but enthralling.

The subject for the evening's knock-out round was a topical one, the Tour de France and the drugs scandal. One thing that impressed me immediately was that it wasn't like an Oxford Union debate where one side supports the motion and the other side opposes it. That's why the Oxford Union is so sterile. No,



MILES KINGTON

Pub debate has nothing to do with philosophy and has more in common with pub fighting

when the Bunch of Grapes took on the Crooked Billet, it was not specified which side supported what

idea. They were just given the topic to run with, so I shouldn't have been surprised when the three Alf Garnetts from the Bunch of Grapes disagreed violently among themselves.

"It's a disgrace," said one. "One of the great races of the world, brought low by drug abuse. If the pressure to win is so great that they use drugs, they should cancel the whole thing."

"Bollocks," said another. "If they all use drugs, it's self-cancelling. If they all take oxygen-enhancing substances, it's the same for all of them, isn't it? I can't see it matters."

"Yeah," said the third, "but what if some take drugs and some don't? Are you going to force non-drug takers to resort to illegal substances?"

"What's illegal about them?"

said the first. "That's the thing I don't understand. All these drugs

were available on prescription, so they're not illegal. I can't see why the police got involved."

"I don't understand," I whispered to Adrian. "These three are all on the same side but they're all arguing against each other."

"Tactics," whispered Adrian. "They're blocking the other team from even talking. If you don't talk, you don't get points. Clever stuff." But the other side started to make inroads here.

"You know what I find shocking about the Tour de France scandal?" said the black guy from the Crooked Billet. "I am deeply shocked that every newspaper I saw had the same headline - 'Tour De Farce'. You'd think that the British headline industry could come up with something different - but oh no!"

"What worries me deeply about the Tour de France," said the gay guy, "is the lack of sexiness in it. What is less sexy than cycling round France in tight underwear?"

"And what is more stupid than cycling round France, the most beautiful country in the world, and not seeing any of it?" said the woman. "Ask a top cyclist to describe what France is like, and he'll say it's just a lot of people waving little flags."

"I don't understand," I whispered to Adrian. "They're not even talking about the drugs scandal."

"That's the beauty of pub debate," whispered Adrian. "You get extra marks for diverting the topic to your own hobby horses."

The Crooked Billet ran out winners eventually. I'll bring you more news from the next round.

سلا من الالاف

SPINNING REVIEW

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An appointment that makes mock of the Commons

IN GUS Macdonald, the Government has provided us, with the extraordinary spectacle of a political appointee which - short of making John Birt Minister for Culture, Media and Sport - could not have been guaranteed to create more of a rumpus if it had been planned that way.

An ex-journalist and businessman often touted as Scotland's most powerful media figure, Mr Macdonald has been made the Scottish Minister for Industry and created a life peer simultaneously. If one were to be uncharitable one might say it looks as if he has been whisked there for opportunistic reasons.

OK, so he may know a lot about the business world in Scotland. But if this Government was primarily interested in putting experts into ministries of state why move Nick Brown from the whips' office to agriculture or Alistair Darling from the Treasury to social security in the recent reshuffle?

No, it seems far more likely that the decisive factor in the advance of the lucky Mr Macdonald - shortly to be Lord Macdonald of Castlemilk - was that he may provide a marginal political advantage for the Labour Party in the media in the run-up to the creation of the Scottish Parliament.

So what should we make of this? Should we begrudge him his good fortune or embrace the reality of practical politics? Either way, one thing is for certain; the many backbench Labour MPs who went to the trouble of running for election are going to be feeling undermined and undervalued as a result of his sudden elevation.

After all, they are probably wondering, what is the House of Commons supposed to be for these days? What is its actual function if it is not for announcing Government policy (apparently superseded in this respect by *Breakfast with Frost* and the *Today* programme), reading out a "state of the nation" address detailing the Government's achievements in its first year (now done in the PM's garden) or providing candidates for ministerial office?

If the Government is trying to send out the signal that it does not respect any of its own members enough to offer them the job (which is surely what it has done, whether it meant to or not) then is this really an argument for reducing the number of members of Parliament and hoping that the calibre of entrants improves as a result? Should we be expecting a green paper on electoral reform very soon?

If this is not the case - and it almost certainly is not

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PRIESTLEY 5-8-98

- then, for the sake of the health of Parliament (which is beginning to look like a greeny atrophied part of the body politic), it might be a good thing to ask whether such an appointment should be possible in the first place.

Despite a certain similarity to the presidential method of appointing a cabinet in the US, there are important differences between that process and this. In British sovereignty is supposed to reside in the House of Commons; there is only one branch of government as opposed to the American three, so it has to be a healthy one.

For it to be so, it would make sense to have some sort of parliamentary hearing before putting non-elected members of the public into Government jobs, some kind

Now, hope marches down Bogside

THE BEST news of a wet and humid summer has come from of all unexpected places, Londonderry. The agreement on the annual march, which could have set the whole province alight again, has been something that the whole country can take cheer from. The traditional August marching will now take place in the form of 13 individual marches laying a wreath in the memory of the city's Protestant dead at the cenotaph. This, it has been agreed, will suffice - and without belittling a piece of history that the Protestant order has every right to commemorate whilst also doing justice to the feelings of resentment unsurprisingly experienced by the Catholic residents of Bogside when their community gets symbolically invaded each year.

It would be distasteful directly to connect the appalling events of last month - when three children died in a fire started by hatred - with this cheering outcome. But it does seem appropriate to reflect that the incident knocked the collective wind out of people everywhere and threw the disturbing post-peace-settlement events at Drumcree into sharp focus. A feeling arose that something was seriously fractured in a world where in the name of the past such a pointless tragedy had actually occurred in the present. It is more than possible that it may have provided an additional spur to the Londonderry negotiators. Who could fail to be moved by the Quinn family's loss?

The events of 310 years ago, when 10,000 Protestants died during the siege of Derry by Catholic James II, live on in the minds of many. But they are right to conclude this is possible without provoking a down-scale reprisal. It is a cliché, but only because it is true: those who do not learn from the mistakes of the past are condemned to repeat them. In this instance it appears lessons about the quiet virtues of tolerance and respect are those commanding the most rapt listeners. No other outcome could offer such hope for the future.

Riders on the wall

THE GUGGENHEIM Museum in New York has hit upon a way of attracting a new, easy-riding type of art-lover. An exhibition of "The Art of the Motorcycle", featuring classic BMWs and Harley-Davidsons, has seen the number of visitors up by about a half. Enterprising curators in Britain now have an example to follow. The new Bankside Tate could do worse than encourage the Morris Minor Owners Club to organise a rally for its opening. Pop art indeed.

Labour must free Britain's cities to use their own imagination

IT ALWAYS struck me that the political leaderships thrown up by local cities in the Eighties were unique to each city. In Sheffield, David Blunkett was an ideal representative for the respectable working-class culture that he typified. Blunkett could never have clawed his way to the top of the London Labour Party. This required a wholly different personality. Similarly I would have got nowhere in Sheffield's politics, and neither of us could have hoped to get anywhere in Liverpool, where the engaging spiv Derek Hatton held sway.

Because so much of Britain's politics and media have been based in London we have never fully appreciated the cultural diversity of our cities and regions in England. I never have any doubts when I'm delivering a speech in Newcastle or Torquay that these are distinctly different audiences to my London patch. They laugh at different things, and what plays well in one area sinks like a lead balloon in another. But Tony Blair's and John Prescott's proposals for regional government in England and the introduction of executive mayors for our major councils will change Britain more profoundly than any other single government policy.

That it should be Labour opening this particular Pandora's box is itself shocking. Labour, whether left or right, old or new, has always in its heart been traditionally a party of the centre. Whether it was Herbert Morrison or Aneurin Bevan, the goal of three generations of Labour leaders was to elect a Labour government that would then transform Britain from top down. Those who ran Labour governments seldom saw councils as

anything other than agents of central government.

Of course, this analysis ignores the two great periods of creativity in local government this century. In the late Twenties and the Thirties Labour councillors fought to ameliorate the impact of the depression. The scale of the crisis they faced led to imaginative solutions, such as Sheffield Council's stunning array of public works. In London, Herbert Morrison went one further and used the London County Council as a trial run to test the creation of a welfare state. Humanising the Poor Law, building municipal housing and even establishing state restaurants, Morrison worked through a first draft of the welfare state that Labour would create in post-war Britain.

In the Seventies a similar burst of municipal imagination swept through Labour councils. The pro-public transport and pedestrianisation schemes of South Yorkshire and Norwich set a national standard in cheap travel. In London experiments with municipalising the private rented sector and a major extension of spending on the arts and social services were the consequences of a whole new younger generation of councillors.

While this first creative period died out as Atlee's government came to power and Labour's attention and ambitions were focused firmly on Westminster, the second phase of municipal imagination was brutally crushed by Margaret Thatcher. Far from defending Labour councils, the Labour leadership of Neil Kinnock largely stood on the sidelines as the death throes of municipal socialism became rather messy.



KEN LIVINGSTONE
Labour's proposals for executive mayors will change Britain more than any other single policy

John Prescott's thinking was formed as Mrs Thatcher's first recession devastated Britain's manufacturing base in the early Eighties. It was about this time that I first met John Prescott, when he came to see me at the GLC. It was almost impossible to get a word in edgeways as he rattled off statistics and plans for rebuilding Britain's regions and using local government to do so. He ran into a temporary roadblock when Neil Kinnock gutted many of his proposals. But the ideas have clearly continued to be a major thrust of Prescott's strategy.

Last week we saw John Prescott's further proposals for restoration of powers to local government. The *quid pro quo* for these powers is introducing directly elected mayors and executive cabinets to replace the municipal tedium of leaders, chief whips and endless committee meetings.

The one thing we can be certain of is the new local and regional structures will rapidly unleash innovation and change. As confidence in these new tiers of government begins to build, we can expect to see the turn-out at local elections rising. In America local election turn-outs are higher than here largely because local mayors have real power. The problem for government, as with any parent watching their pimpling adolescent make mistakes, will be knowing when to let go.

If we just look at transport policy it is inevitable that different cities will develop different strategies. What is required for London and other big cities in the form of bus lanes and subsidised fares, as well as reintroducing trams, may have little relevance to rural areas. In these it may require a much more idiosyncratic approach with the integration of postal and food delivery services into a public transport service network, and the introduction of subsidised taxis and minibuses to reach outlying areas.

If transport requires different solutions in different areas the problem of unemployment and job creation is no different. If we look at London with its small manufacturing tradition it is immediately obvious that both cities will have to develop radically different strategies that reflect the different skills and traditions of its workforces.

The news this week that the largest single generator of wealth in Sydney in Australia is the annual gay and lesbian Mardi Gras, will no doubt be greeted with incredulity in what remains of industrial Britain; but those who have seen the diversity and economic strength of the lesbian and gay

festivals in Manchester and London will not be surprised at the power of the pink pound.

At the end of the day the key problem for Labour is that by strengthening regional and city identities each area will start to fight for resources. For years the Barnett formula has given Scotland a more generous level of public spending than England, but the lack of equally effective political organisation by the MPs in England's regions has denied those regions the chance to make the case that Scotland did before. We have seen the first stirrings of new regional identity in the emergence of the powerful coalfield communities campaign. London Labour MPs have already become alarmed by scare stories in the press that the government intends to switch 1500m from London to the coalfield areas.

Though Tony Blair firmly squashed this rumour at his last Prime Minister's Question Time, there is no doubt that this is the politics of Britain's future. Nor should we fear this, for democracy has always been about the allocation of resources.

I've no doubt that if we could look forward 20 years we would be able to see that it was this government that unleashed the transformation of Britain. Contrary to the recent view, it is not local government that is irrelevant; it is Whitehall. I've no doubt that before I die I should live to see a federal government in Britain with Whitehall withering away as foreign affairs, defence and macroeconomic policy pass upwards to the elected European Parliament and the rest of Whitehall's functions pass downwards to a newly confident Britain of regions.

QUOTE OF THE DAY
"There's a great deal of fuss being made about something that is not all that important."
John McAllion, Labour MP
on Gus Macdonald's appointment as Scottish Industry Minister

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY
"Misce stultitiam consillis brevem; dulce est desipere in loco."
(Mix a little foolishness with your prudence; it's good to be silly at the right moment.)
Horace,
Roman poet

How much do you love me?



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THE TWO subcontinental leaders have met and returned home, smug in the feeling that they did not compromise their core positions. Hence the booming of guns along the lines of communication should not sound too jarring to their ears. Their inflexibility, however, has let the people of this region down once again. The Americans say they would continue making efforts to bring these two countries to some sense and civilisation. They ought to know that arms-twisting someone

with a nuclear device hidden in his basement requires tremendous patience.
Frontier Post, Pakistan

NOTHING SHOULD prevent the Pakistan military from displaying the utmost vigilance and from giving the Indian side as good as it gets. If India under the belligerent leadership of the BJP imposes a situation not of Pakistan's seeking, it should be under no illusion about Pakistan's response. If India tries any adventure in Kashmir, it

MONITOR

ALL THE NEWS OF THE WORLD
The Kashmir peace talks collapse and violence escalates

should be in no doubt that it will get a befitting response.
Dawn, Pakistan

PAKISTAN CLEARLY does not want any relaxation of tension.

Nothing else explains its sudden loss of interest in the talks. While returning the fire, therefore, India must keep the lines of communication open so that the conditions remain well

under control. Even those in Pakistan who believe an act of brinkmanship will help their cause must realise that an escalation of conflict will make the ultimate task of resolving the problems more difficult. India, too, will have to be on guard that it does not fall into a trap set by the desperate elements in Pakistan's ruling troika.
The Hindustan, India

THE SITUATION needs to be defused but it is not possible without India and Pakistan entering

into a dialogue across the table instead of talking in the language of guns and rockets. Pakistan should not shun talks that include Kashmir... [these] are in our interest even if they are to continue for the sake of talking to each other. India should not be allowed to wriggle out of these as it appeared to be trying to do in Colombo, and there were some reports in our media which indicated that our hawks were ready to follow the same course.
The Nation, Pakistan

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PANDORA

IT SEEMS as though MPs were starting to get green even before John Prescott's recent call to cut down on car usage. The number of honourable members claiming mileage allowances fell from 534 in 1995 to 238 in 1997, with the decrease in use of large-engined cars even more dramatic, according to parliamentary answers received by Norman Baker, MP for Lewes. Despite this uncharacteristic outbreak of environmental responsibility, it was not obvious that MPs were rushing to use that alternative form of transport, the bicycle. The number of MPs claiming the new bicycle allowance is just one. Who can this heroic yellow jersey be?

A WEEK is indeed a long time in politics, especially for Frank Field. When Field resigned his welfare reform brief on Monday 27 July he said he could "support the Prime Minister more effectively from the backbenches". By Wednesday, Field was bawling the Chancellor, Gordon Brown, for not sharing the "common endeavour" of welfare reform. Last Sunday it was Harriet Harman's turn to feel the lash of Frank's tongue, as he accused her of sinking his ideas into a "black hole". This Monday the attack had moved on to the "cancer" of spin doctors.

Nice one, Frank. Given that we are in the recess, a period when government departments have been briefed to put out positive news stories, Field has to be commended for his unman Millbank operation. Unfortunately, Frank was lying uncharacteristically low when Pandora tried to contact him, no doubt drafting a few other "messages of support" for the government.

IT WAS hoped that rock star Paul Weller (below) would attend last night's 10th anniversary party for the Fish Hairdressing Company at the Hanover Grand in London. Former Jam frontman

Weller (not to be confused with Wella, that other range of hair products) is one of the celebrity clients of stylist Paul Burfoot, whose other star scalps include Damon Albarn, and Big Breakfast star Johnny Vaughan. Vaughan, who endorses the Fish hairstyling range and whose face was plastered on every wall of the venue, only managed to turn up for a few minutes. Weller was sadly absent. Must have been in, washing his hair that night.

THE GOVERNMENT Information Service has alerted ministries to the worrying trend of increasing "Heroin" addiction. According to their factsheets this scourge is moving out from the towns and into the countryside. Pandora has been told that one Government official was concerned that large numbers of young men will clutter up doctors' surgeries clutching pictures of Kylie Minogue, Gillian Anderson and other heroines. Even in Pandora's book it is possible to overdose on a sense of humour.

SUPERMODEL Naomi Campbell, is a great believer in astrology and is particularly chuffed up on her star sign, Gemini. Naomi says that she is "thrilled" with her new psychic, Maria Papetros, because she correctly forecast Naomi's love life.

"Being a Gemini is about being an introvert and an extrovert," she tells the US magazine *Jane*. "There's a side of me that can go out in front of the paparazzi and do the whole circuit, and there's another side that just wants to stay in and eat in front of the television." Eat? That's got to be the smallest and healthiest TV dinner ever.

THE RE-RELEASE of The Beatles' film *A Hard Day's Night* has been greeted with a certain amount of trepidation in the States. The new version, digitally remastered and complete with new footage is due to go out next March, but the goofy antics of the Fab Four are perhaps still an acquired taste to some Americans.

"There are a tremendous number of young people who have never seen the film," says film producer Walter Shenson, who helped to make the re-release of the film a reality. "I show it sometimes to film students, and maybe six out of a hundred have seen it before. I ask them if it seems dated, and they say, 'No it's just British.'"

A warning to the bombers of Ulster



MO MOWLAM

The picture in Ulster is, if that's possible, even more complicated than it was before

NORTHERN IRELAND has shown the world two starkly conflicting images this week. People have witnessed the common-sense of two sides prepared to talk through their differences but they have also seen the mindless violence of bombers with no respect for human life.

The Apprentice Boys of Derry and the Bogside Residents' Association demonstrated that compromise is better than conflict. Their agreement shows what can be achieved when people respect the other person's point of view - even when the talking is tough.

This gives us all hope that common sense can prevail and accommodation replace conflict where there are disputes over parades. Contrast that with the wreckers prepared to devastate a town centre, wreckers whose only aim is to replace hope with despair.

I can understand that, after Saturday's car bomb attack, many people in Banbridge are asking if Northern Ireland's troubles will ever end. "Where is the peace?" they ask. I witnessed the scale of the damage in the aftermath of that cowardly attack and I am heartened

by the determination of business people and local folk to rebuild the centre of a lovely town.

I don't doubt that there are some people feeling let down - but I also know that is just what the terrorists are striving for. Violence from dissident groups opposed to the ceasefires from either side of the community perhaps now poses the greatest threat to Northern Ireland's fledgling peace.

The picture in Northern Ireland is - if that's possible - even more complicated than it was before. Groups are moving away from violence towards peace and politics. That is clear, and the Good Friday agreement proves it.

At the same time, there are extremists on either side who will do all they can to disrupt and destabilise. They want to convince people that nothing has changed and that the violence has not gone away.

Well it is going away, and it will go away if we all continue to show our determination not to let these bombers win. Of course, groups still using violence for political ends won't benefit from what the Good Friday agreement offers. For example, the scheme for early prisoner releases only applies to supporters of groups who are maintaining complete and unequivocal ceasefires. Groups not on ceasefire are not eligible.

At the same time, the terror groups are becoming increasingly isolated - support for continuing violence in Northern Ireland exists only among a handful of extremists. And the security forces, north and south of the

border, are doing an impressive job of preventing them carrying out their acts of terror.

But now they need the help of everyone in the community to bring those responsible to justice. The people of Northern Ireland have voted overwhelmingly for the agreement and a new way forward, both in the referendum and in the Assembly elections that followed.

They don't want this violence - they want these bombers caught and stopped. As a government, we want to encourage those who have chosen the path of peace and accepted that politics is the only real way forward. But at the same time, we will be tough on those who haven't abandoned their old ways.

They must realise that overwhelmingly the people of Northern Ireland have chosen an alternative way forward and neither they nor we, are going to be deflected from that by the threats and intimidation.

Without doubt, the process of transforming Northern Ireland into a stable society like any other will take time, determination and patience. The recurrent problems over the parades issue show us how

far the process of reconciliation between the two communities still has to go. Nevertheless, it can happen and it is happening.

Representatives of all shades of opinion in Northern Ireland have been elected to the new Assembly. All aspects of the agreement are moving forward together. The legislation to implement the agreement was passed by the House of Commons last week. The momentum of the last four months is being maintained.

I believe the agreement will succeed, most of all because it represents compromise on all sides while, at the same time, preserves the integrity and the dignity of both the traditions in Northern Ireland. That is a great achievement. Just a few years ago, most would have said such an agreement was impossible but I have no doubt that the will and determination is there from the Northern Ireland people to make it work.

The accommodation reached in Derry is a clear sign of that will at work. And it is the only way forward; it represents the best chance we have. We can't - we won't - let the bombers destroy it.

The American people may yet repudiate their President



GODFREY HODGSON

Tony Blair may have positioned himself too close to a president who may soon be impotent

ONCE UPON a time, a senator from Mississippi called Theodore Bilbo was named in a paternity suit. One of his friends, a good old boy from Texas, met him in a Senate corridor and murmured commiseration. "Nothing to worry about," said the old sinner, "you should never underestimate the adultery vote!"

A columnist in the *Washington Post* expressed a similar thought last week when he said that the United States is "more well, French" about these things than it used to be. Meaning that, at a time when the FBI is checking a young woman's dress for traces of the presidential semen, nobody seems to be that bothered. The New Puritanism, perhaps, has been exaggerated.

That may be so. But the point to focus on is that it is one thing to be tolerant of sexual vagaries, quite another to be happy about what Bill Clinton is doing to the presidency. His popularity rating still hovers around two-thirds of the sample, remarkably high by any historical standard. The economy is humming, and - rightly or wrongly - few in Washington think the Asian crisis can harm it seriously.

There is a special reason, too, why Bill Clinton can feel confident about his own prospects of survival. It is that the Republicans, who control both the House of Representatives, which would have to vote a resolution of impeachment, and the Senate, which would sit in judgment on it, are deeply reluctant to push things that far.

It is true that in the last few days the President's situation has deteriorated sharply. After months of delay, Kenneth Starr, the special prosecutor, has made his move. By offering Monica Lewinsky immunity from prosecution for almost anything she might have done, including immunity from prosecution for per-

jury for her earlier denial of a relationship with Clinton, Starr has persuaded her to give evidence to his grand jury. It is all but universally assumed that she will say that she and the President did the deed. And she has now handed over to the prosecutors "physical evidence", including tapes of her phone conversations with the President, as well as the famous blue dress.

Most important of all, by serving him with a subpoena, Starr has forced the President himself to give evidence, which he will now have to do, live on videotape from the White House for the benefit of the grand jury on 17 August. So, in legal terms, Clinton faces a dilemma. He has repeatedly denied, on and off oath, that he had a sexual relationship with "that woman". If he repeats his denial, and the White House is saying that he will, it may no longer be just his word against hers.

If on the other hand he changes his story, as many advise him to do, and admits that, well, yes, there was just a little affair, then he is admitting he committed perjury. And

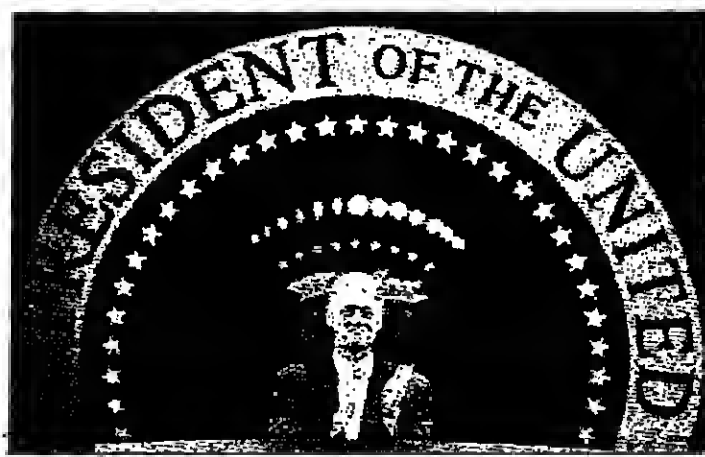
there is a good deal of poll evidence, as well as a broad consensus among commentators, that while the American people are willing to forgive a sexual peccadillo, they take a sterner view of perjury.

But the President's situation is not desperate. He is not likely to be impeached. The Republican chairman of the House Judiciary Committee, Congressman Henry Hyde, has proceeded with infinite caution. The Republican leadership is holding its fire. They have both a long-term and a short-term reason, a 1998 reason, and a 2000 one.

When Clinton gives his testimony, it will be little more than two weeks before Labor Day, the date when traditionally campaigning begins for this year's mid-term elections. The Republicans have hopes of making solid gains in both House and Senate. They do not want their campaign caught up in the cyclonic tail of an impeachment hurricane. They know how reluctant the politicians and the country are to go through a replay of Watergate; that was what saved Ronald Reagan from impeachment charges over the Iran contra affair in 1986.

The 2000 calculation is that if Clinton should be impeached, he would be replaced by Al Gore, the Vice-president, whose private life is a model of rectitude. Whoever their candidate is then, the Republican leadership would infinitely rather campaign against a tarred and feathered Bill Clinton than against a squeaky clean Al Gore.

The President is therefore not likely to be impeached. But the mood in the country could still turn sharply against him. If the country does not believe his testimony on Monday week, his presidency will be utterly discredited. Other embarrassments, such as the essentially far more serious charges of illegal



The dignity of the office will inevitably be diminished

conduct for the Clinton campaign from China, will become more credible. Already, he has been able to achieve little in Congress, where he faces a united and ideologically rigid Republican majority.

It is not that Americans are sexually prudish, but a growing number of them are horrified by what this man has done to the reputation of an office they revere. For the presidency as an institution is inevitably going to be damaged.

Serious questions, too, are raised by the role of the special prosecutor. Leaning over backward to appear fair, presidents are constrained to appoint bitter opponents to investigate them, as Nixon did with Archibald Cox, and Clinton did with Starr. Convinced, like the Duchess in *Alice in Wonderland*, that his quarry is guilty of something, and that it is only a matter of deciding what, Starr has behaved as if his work would not be done until he could produce a report that would say "Off with his head!"

There is an issue here, though, that is larger than Starr or Clinton.

The Cold War bred the imperial presidency. Congress took second place. Now that the Cold War is over, and the Republicans have captured control of the Congress, the relative importance of the presidency would be much diminished in any case. What the tragicomic of the Lewinsky affair means is that power will pass, more than ever, to the conservative ideologues on Capitol Hill.

Many important consequences for the world will flow from that shift. The United States, for example, may be the last superpower. But it is unlikely to be willing to make a full contribution to the IMF or to United Nations peacekeeping as long as Newt Gingrich is Speaker of the House and Trent Lott majority leader in the Senate.

A minor corollary, in the larger perspective of world economic crisis, political instability and nuclear proliferation, is that Tony Blair may have positioned himself just a little too close to a president who may soon be both impotent - in the political sense, of course - and ridiculous.

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Let us not forget the lesson of Berlin



PODIUM

JOHN HAMRE
From a speech by the US Deputy Defence Secretary marking the 50th anniversary of the Berlin airlift

WE ARE very grateful that you recognise these American heroes who, 50 years ago, sought to serve their country and sought to serve freedom. May I say thank you to the German people for how graciously you have received and welcomed American soldiers, sailors, airmen and marines these last 50 years. We are very grateful. Thank you.

As we celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Berlin airlift, so do we also celebrate 50 years of the enduring friendship between Germany and the United States. It is a friendship grounded in our shared sacrifice, our shared success and our common vision of democracy and freedom. It is a friendship which Americans treasure and which we look forward to carrying into the next century.

The friendship between Germany and the US was born in one of this century's defining events. Fifty years ago, as Joseph Stalin's Iron Curtain descended around a free Berlin, the last battleground of a world war turned into the first battleground of the Cold War. In the early days of the

blockade, Berlin Mayor Ernst Reuter implored: "Völker der Welt, schaut auf Berlin!" - "People of the world, look at Berlin!"

The world did indeed look at Berlin. And what the world saw was not just a city, but also a symbol: a symbol of resolve, a symbol of defiance, and, ultimately, a symbol of freedom. When the world looked at Berlin, it saw Berliners facing overwhelming odds, turning fields into runways and unloading the food and the fuel of freedom from a bridge in the sky.

When the world looked at Berlin, it saw the Allies committed to a free Germany. When the world looked at Berlin, it also saw the future, for the airlift truly shaped the Cold War period.

Every day of the airlift our pilots were thundering across the German sky into a battle not of bullets, but of ideas - of liberty, of freedom and of democracy. And they turned one of freedom's darkest days into one of its brightest triumphs.

For America, the airlift was a wake-up call. It made us realise that, unlike the past, we

could not withdraw safely behind our shores, secure behind an Atlantic barrier.

After two world wars, the airlift confirmed that American and European security were inextricably bound together. The airlift proved that the cost of avoiding tyranny and destruction tomorrow was vigilance and commitment today. And the airlift confirmed, once again, that freedom is never free.

Let there be no doubt: history will remember the story of Berlin, a story about how the spirit of liberty can tear down the mightiest walls of oppression.

Today, that spirit reminds us that America must remain engaged in the world and in Europe. That spirit lives on, inspiring and nurturing the trans-Atlantic alliance and energising our efforts to help Europeans shape their own future.

It is alive as we build new bridges and extend the hand of NATO friendship and membership to Hungary, to Poland and to the Czech Republic.

It is alive in the Partnership for Peace, and in our efforts to build a foundation of co-operation with countries in transition, like Russia and Ukraine.

And it is alive as we cool the cauldrons of hate in places like Bosnia. Indeed, the spirit of Berlin, the spirit of liberty, is helping us reach across old divides to help European friends build a new Europe for a new century.

Just last month, I was privileged to participate in the opening of the Allied Museum in Berlin. The Allied Museum

is now the home of one of the most poignant symbols of the Cold War - the guardhouse called Checkpoint Charlie. Checkpoint Charlie is one of those symbols that resonates in the hearts of Americans and of all our allies. It was a passageway to freedom and a fragile, yet defiant, outpost against tyranny.

Checkpoint Charlie now sits in that museum in Berlin; its job as a guardhouse is done. Now let us commit to build a Europe in which we have no need of new Checkpoint Charlies.

Let us commit to build a Europe where there is no need for concrete walls and for barbed wire to keep people in and to keep ideas out. Let us commit to build a Europe that is itself a gateway to openness and freedom for all mankind. Let us Americans recommit ourselves to be active partners in Europe.

Let us take the bravery of those who flew in the airlift as a symbol of that commitment. And let us always remember Berlin as the ultimate symbol of that freedom we cherish and must always defend.

My plan to save Kosovo now



**PADDY
ASHDOWN**

Milosevic continues to play grandmother's footsteps every time the West's back is turned

THE RENEWED bloodletting in Kosovo, and the West's lack of coherent or effective reaction to it, are both depressingly predictable. More than four months have passed since our early warnings, and still the international community agonises, the crisis deepens and the cost of a solution escalates. Since April the Foreign Office has been considering the options, as I am repeatedly told at Prime Minister's Questions. This government, unlike previous governments, has been energetic in trying to stiffen the resolve of our European partners and of the US, but to little avail – perhaps we would see more progress if the White House were not paralysed with a domestic row. Meanwhile, the Serbian president, Slobodan Milosevic, has continued with his game of "international grandmother's footsteps", edging Kosovo nearer to all-out war and humanitarian catastrophe every time the West's back is turned.

The options do not take four months to consider, if only because they are so narrow. This is not Bosnia, and it is as important to be aware of the differences as it is to spot the similarities. In Bosnia the West was able to put in ground forces to control the conflict, then to step back and provide the forum of the Dayton peace talks to help the participants come to a settlement. In Kosovo we have neither of these options. There is no realistic expectation that ground forces can be deployed, other than to police an agreed settlement, and no time to wait for a Dayton-style accord to emerge from the warring parties.

We have been reacting to each fresh piece of news on an ad hoc basis, in a policy vacuum. Instead we should be, and should have been, pursuing clear and focused diplomatic actions, backed by the ultimate sanction of air power, if necessary, to persuade both sides – the Serbs and the guerrilla KLA – that we will not allow this dispute to be settled by a military victory.

There can only be a political solution to what is essentially a long-standing political problem: the ethnic-Albanian majority within the province of Kosovo sees rule from Serbian Belgrade as illegitimate. As time trickles by, planning to achieve



Staring into a future without hope, the ethnic Albanians flee the latest Serb assault in Kosovo

a political solution becomes more difficult and the outcomes carry more risks. But we must still try. There are two ways to detonate a wider Balkan crisis out of Kosovo. First, if we fail to stop a Milosevic victory fueling the fires of pan-Serb nationalism; second, if we act in such a way as to allow the KLA to inflame and unleash pan-Albanian nationalism within the neighbouring states of Albania and Macedonia.

These dangers become more pressing all the time. Paradoxically, the military successes of the Serb army against the KLA in recent days seem to have led not only to a renewal of Serb human rights violations and triumphalist acts of aggression towards the civilian population. They have also led to greater ethnic-Albanian insurgencies in Macedonia, with intensely worrying reports of bombs and civil disturbance in the Albanian-dominated towns of the north. There are elements within the political elites of Albania and Macedonia who are willing to actively exploit this trend – to the immense distress of the two governments. And the Albanian mafia, who have almost total control of the "badlands" that I visited in June, which border Kosovo, are clearly implicated in

arming and supporting the KLA. The optimism of a few weeks ago, when the moderate Kosovar politician Ibrahim Rugova appeared to have brought the KLA into a broad-based negotiating team for the peace talks, appears to be vanishing in the rubble of the new Serb offensives. Each new tale of Serbian army atrocities radicalises the ethnic Albanians even further.

So what should the West, and in particular Britain, be doing? First, this is a problem that affects the entire Balkan region and requires regional solutions, so Greece and Turkey must be prepared to act as guarantors of any long-term settlement.

Secondly, we should act quickly to stabilise and strengthen the two neighbouring states of Macedonia and Albania. At times of fluidity and crisis, it is important to reinforce the frontiers. We should make it clear that we will not tolerate any threats to the integrity of the Macedonian border or state, and that the international community will take some responsibility for any Kosovar Albanian refugees who may flood across that border.

We should support the Albanian government in its attempts to re-establish control of the lawless north-

ern border "badlands". By giving better support to the Albanian government, possibly through decent police equipment and help for their security forces, we may encourage the KLA to accept its influence. If the threat of Nato aircraft are our means to control Milosevic, then the control of northern Albania (and the arms that flow through it) performs the same function in controlling the KLA.

Thirdly, we should decide on a clear public aim: to bring both sides to a peaceful agreement on the basis of a "blueprint". This should initially involve Kosovar autonomy within the former Yugoslavia, with guaranteed rights for the ethnic-Serb minority. Milosevic, who originally opposed this, is likely now to be more accommodating, and the Kosovar nationalists whom I met during my visit in June were open to persuasion on less than full independence – provided that the terms and context for autonomy, with parallel status to Montenegro, would be guaranteed and policed by the international community.

Independence may turn out to be the only viable long-term solution. But independence in the short term would immediately destabilise Macedonia and the delicate balance

of states and semi-states that still make up the post-Dayton Bosnia.

Every week that passes redoubles the danger of a full-blown regional crisis. This will be triggered either by a further ethnic-Albanian uprising within Macedonia, or by another flood of refugees into Albania. The international community appears to be, quite cynically, standing back and allowing Milosevic's tanks to achieve one of our policy aims, namely the humbling of the KLA and their pan-Albanian ambitions. Instead we should be taking advantage of the momentary military stalemate to issue an ultimatum to Milosevic, and making the final push for peace.

It may be that we cannot achieve UN security council unanimity, but we should act fast to curb Milosevic nonetheless. With a clear plan such as that I have outlined, the international community is better able to judge how force may have to be used. The legal niceties of intervention are a matter for consideration, but it is arguable that the UN Charter, under articles 1 and 52, provides the basis for action to preserve regional peace even without a security council resolution. And time is not on our side. In the short term we may have

to provide some show of force, probably through air strikes, to demonstrate our resolve. Milosevic is perpetrating abuses against his own civilian population which, according to the rhetoric of our own and other Western governments, should have resulted in Nato intervention already. And yet we neither do or say anything further, and the human costs are rising.

Reports are emerging of refugees holed up in the forests above the Albanian border, unable to go back to their wrecked villages and too scared to come down into Albania. During my visit in June, I was told about these thousands of displaced villagers, and heard the worries of human rights observers about their safety. It was a humanitarian catastrophe waiting to happen, but the warnings fell on deaf ears. Winter is only a few months away, and the aid agencies are trying to avert disaster while being granted only "on and off" access by Milosevic.

It has become a lugubrious tradition for foreign policy crises to surface during the parliamentary recess. But time is running out for Kosovo, and we cannot allow the conflict to fester over the summer until it erupts as an even more dangerous regional upheaval.

RIGHT OF REPLY

WILSON MUTEBI



The Bishop of Mityana, Uganda, explains why he thinks homosexuality is a sin

I AM convinced that any homosexual practice is wrong and sinful. The Bible tells me so. As a Christian and a leader in the Church, I say that whoever has been caught in it has to repent. For me, there are no grey areas.

The book of Genesis says that human beings were created in the image of God. Both man and woman have the obligation to depict the image of God at its best. Like people who commit the sins of adultery, stealing and prostitution, people who are falling into this sin of homosexuality are damaging the image of God.

All same-sex unions that have been blessed and all ordinations of practising homosexuals are invalid. We who are standing firm in the faith will not work with them. That one is not going to happen.

The reason we would not hear the presentation which the lesbians and gays organised is the same reason we would not let a prostitute give her ideas to the conference. We cannot permit just anyone to have a forum here. If they want, they can go to the market-place or whatever and talk about their business, but not in a Christian forum because the acts they are doing are not Christian. They have excluded themselves.

We rebuke the sin, but love the sinner. What I have to emphasise is that the Church has an obligation to these people as much as we have an obligation to people who are prostitutes. We have an obligation to counsel them and bring them to their senses. We are ready to help them. I am sorry they have the orientation, but it was not given to them by God, but by Satan.

There are people who once behaved in this way. Now they come and tell us they have lived in Jesus Christ. This proves that those who are having sex with the same sex can repent and be healed.

Priest in a parish of rich women

KAHLIL GIBRAN is one of the 20th century's odder literary phenomena. Born in northern Lebanon in 1893, he emigrated to America with his mother, half-brother and two sisters when he was 12. The family lived in poverty in south Boston. Kahlil, the privileged son, went to school in a settlement house there, where an art teacher recognised his talent and brought it to the attention of Fred Holland Day, a wealthy young dabbler in art and photography. And so began Kahlil's ascent to fame and fortune as a painter, poet and fabulist.

His pictures are wispy sub-Blakean evocations of sexless figures hovering amid clouds of glory. But it was as a writer that he was to achieve renown. In Arabic (both these books assure us) his voice was vigorous and innovative. In English, however, very much his second language, it much resembled his paintings – mystical, uplifting, fulsomely vague. "Limp, mucid hoosey" as one critic described it. "Also Sprach Zarathustra" written in mauve icing on a cake of halvah.



WEDNESDAY BOOKS

PROPHET: THE LIFE AND TIMES OF KAHLIL GIBRAN

BY ROBIN WATERFIELD, ALLEN LANE/PENGUIN PRESS, £20

KAHLIL GIBRAN, MAN AND POET

BY SUHEIL BUSHRI AND JOE JENKINS, ONEWORLD PUBLICATIONS, £19.99



An early (1911) example of Gibran's art

Many would agree. But Gibran has undoubtedly had the last laugh. All but one of his books have remained continuously in print since publication, and the most famous, *The Prophet*, has sold over nine million copies and continues to sell steadily almost 70 years after his death. Clearly, it is pointless to discuss Gibran in literary terms, since literature was not what he was about. We are dealing here with a cult.

In such a case one of two approaches is open to the biographer. He may be frankly admiring and respectful, retailing the life for the enlightenment of enthusiasts. Or he may choose to take a step back and examine the phenomenon. Broadly speaking, Bushri and Jenkins take the first approach, Waterfield the second.

From the point of view of the uncommitted reader, there can be no doubt which makes a better book. Phenomena are interesting regardless of whether you believe in them. Not that Waterfield disbelieves in Gibran, in whose work he finds much to admire. Gleeful iconoclasm is not his style. But faced with incontrovertible evidence of Gibran's mendacity, weakness and egotism, he has no option but, gently and almost apologetically, to reveal the inevitable feet of clay.

I say inevitable partly because the guru's stock-in-trade is perfection, the one unachievable thing; and partly as Gibran is representative of a class of adventurer-guru. One thinks of Madame Blavatsky, George Gurdjieff, L Ron Hubbard, the Reverend Sun Myung Moon. The unquenchable popularity of their preachings remains miraculously unaffected by their, almost endearingly barefaced, charlatanism.

Only his Arab friends, however, knew the real Gibran, the poor boy who had left Lebanon to escape a brutal and drunken father. For his new American friends he concocted a more romantic tale, of a wealthy childhood more suitable to the figure he wanted to cut in their company. His secret of success lay not in sincerity but in telling people what they wanted to hear. He wrapped himself in phrases, hiding behind a veil of uplifting myth.

And – for the ladies to whom he wrote simultaneous and identical love-letters, as for his devoted readers – it worked. Unattainability was all. For the charismatic as for the magician, mystery is an essential part of the act. Tear away the veil, and what remains? A mere mortal.

But to sustain the act, you need a thicker skin than Gibran possessed. He alone knew the secret of his own duplicitousness – that, at the centre, there was nothing at all. In despair he turned to drink, and died of cirrhosis in 1931, at only 48. His influence, Waterfield suggests, lives on through the old hippies who imbibed him in their New Age youth and continue to live lives affected by his teachings. Meanwhile his heirs – the villagers of Bahari in Lebanon, where he was born – live happily ever after on the spoils.

RUTH BRANDON

WEDNESDAY POEM

GOD'S WORK

BY ANNE CARSON

Moonlight in the kitchen is a sign of God.
The kind of sadness that is a black suction pipe extracting you
from your own navel and which the Buddhists call

'no mindcover' is a sign of God.
The blind alleys that run alongside human conversation
like lashes are a sign of God.

God's own calmness is a sign of God.
The surprisingly cold smell of potatoes or money.
Solid pieces of silence.

From these diverse signs you can see
how much work remains to do.
Put away your sadness, it is a mantle of work.

Our poems this week come from volumes competing for this year's Forward Prizes, which will be announced on 7 October. Anne Carson's book 'Glass and God' (Cape, £8) is shortlisted for the Best Collection award

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Alfred Schnittke

THE "POLYSTYLISM" that came to be characteristic of Alfred Schnittke's music was a reflection of the man himself: he was a Russian composer, born in a once-German part of the Soviet Union, to parents of Latvian origin - his father Jewish and his mother German, who grew up a Catholic in a German community in an atheist state.

Schnittke's natural openness to this kaleidoscope of influences was characteristic of his generous intellectual curiosity; he likewise accepted all the rest of music as material to feed his own creative urge. He was also two ways a hero, although, in keeping with his personal modesty, an unemphatic one: at the beginning of his career he assiduously took on the Soviet cultural dictatorship on behalf of new music, and at the end of his life he showed extraordinary physical courage in continuing to compose despite a series of vicious strokes.

Schnittke's musical ambitions manifested themselves early but the family's limited means, and their geographical isolation in the Volga during the Second World War (Stalin deported the Volga Germans en masse; Schnittke's father's Jewishness allowed his family to escape the net), meant that systematic instruction was not available. The child none the less made crude attempts at composition, demonstrating a creative will that was to ignore formidable obstacles throughout his career.

In 1945 Schnittke's father, now a journalist in the Soviet army, was posted to Vienna with the occupying forces, and the nine-year-old Alfred could at last study music theory and piano, also soaking himself in concerts and broadcast music (Stalin had banned the private possession of radios during the Second World War). The Viennese tradition he encountered at this formative age provided a vital underlay to his later stylistic explorations.

The Schnittke family returned to the Soviet Union in 1946, settling in the Moscow area, and Alfred began to teach himself harmony. At the age of 15 he was accepted as a student in the army music college, and began private theory lessons with Iosif Ryzhkin, who taught him to compose in a wide variety of styles to improve the fluency of his technique. In 1953, just as Stalin's death gave way to Khrushchev's brief "thaw", Schnittke became a student at the Moscow Conservatory, where the students courted the disapproval of their orthodox teachers by listening privately to the "bourgeois" music of composers like Stravinsky, Hindemith, Bartók and Schoenberg, who were only now beginning to be heard in Russia.

Another massive influence on Schnittke at this time, as on virtually every young composer of note in the Soviet Union, was Dmitry Shostakovich, whose First Violin

Concerto, premiered in 1955, had a very direct impact. Schnittke's friend Alexander Ivashkin - whose excellent biographical study *Alfred Schnittke* (1996) is the only publication on the composer in English - points to the similarities between the concertos of the two composers: there is "the same feeling of drama, the same sharp, even exaggerated, contrasts between the movements, and the same freedom and space for the cadenza, a monologue of the soloist 'hero'". Ivashkin neatly characterises the difference in their styles: "Shostakovich, under the burden of Stalin's dictatorship, was much more cautious, preferring to speak indirectly and symbolically. Schnittke's generation grew up in a different situation and wanted to speak more openly and directly".

Schnittke's graduation piece, an oratorio called *Nagasaki* (1958) brought him his first brush with authority: his depiction of the explosion

His First Symphony was an unabashed ragbag of musics, discordantly, exultantly sewn together, like Charles Ives on speed

of the atomic bomb, using atonality, total clusters and howling trombones, was hardly calculated to appease the apparition of the Composers' Union. Schnittke was unable to make the compromises in his musical language to suit the political lines of the commission he was offered, and so in the early 1960s he was blacklisted, a covert ban that was to last 20 years.

That meant that travel abroad, even to other Communist countries, would be a rare privilege, despite his growing fame as one of the Soviet Union's most individual voices and leading modernists. From the mid-1960s to the mid-1980s Schnittke was invited to around 20 premieres of his works abroad; permission to attend them was never granted.

In a search for a musical language that would synthesise past and present Schnittke was already beginning to unite a variety of elements in his music, in the beginnings of his "polystylism", where reminiscences of Renaissance, Baroque and Classical composers sit alongside the most dramatic devices of modernism, in stark contrasts that produce music of considerable tension and power.



Schnittke was one of Russia's most prolific, innovative and popular composers

Lebrecht Collection

Studies with the Moldova-born Webern pupil Philip Hershkovich, who pointed to the origins of much modern music in the classics of the past, now gave Schnittke's search intellectual cohesion, and the music began to flow fast from his pen.

In 1963 Schnittke wrote the first of his film scores, a genre that was to afford him a relatively good living over the next two decades, accounting for no fewer than 66 of his 200 or so works. It also allowed him more room for experiment than works destined for the Communist-controlled concert halls: he could choose his techniques according to the film in question, commenting on the action rather than merely illustrating it. These scores provided a rich vein of material for later concert works.

One of those pieces was the First Symphony, first performed in 1974, an unabashed ragbag of musics, discordantly, exultantly sewn together with some pointedly rough needlework, like some crazed Charles Ives on speed. The effect on Russian musical life was electric: it heralded the beginning of the end for the old, repressive order, which predictably re-

acted by putting an effective ban on its performance.

Schnittke's music meantime was moving on, refining his magpie eclecticism in favour of a new depth of emotion; the occasion for this search for expressive power was the death of his mother, from a stroke, in 1972; the sense of mortality it brought Schnittke was supported by a growing sense of religious awareness.

The advent to power of Mikhail Gorbachev in 1985 loosened the grip of Tikhon Khrennikov, the Stalinist head of the Composers' Union, on musical life in the Soviet Union. Schnittke was poised to reap the rewards of his intellectual and moral consistency. And that was when he had his first stroke, with a brain haemorrhage so severe that three times he was pronounced clinically dead.

His reaction was to tighten his grip on life: he began composing his First Cello Concerto within three months. Stage works, orchestral music, choral pieces, chamber music followed, one score after another with an almost frantic urgency. A second stroke hit him in 1991, after which Schnittke completed his opera *Life*

with an *Idiot*. Two years later another opera, *Gesualdo*, was finished, as were the Sixth, Seventh and Eighth Symphonies.

Schnittke's doctor had advised him to take complete rest; when Schnittke found that the result was yet another stroke, he threw caution to the winds and, though he could barely speak and could write only with his left hand (he was right-handed), he managed to compose his Ninth Symphony, which was premiered in Moscow in June this year.

No composer as productive as Schnittke can expect to write a consistent string of masterpieces. But the best of Schnittke is, quite simply, great music: his Second Cello Concerto, for example, is one of the finest additions to the cello repertoire this century; and Ivashkin chronicles how the audience at his ballet *Peer Gynt* left the hall in tears.

Much of his work is touched with a sense of imminent loss, of some disaster about to break on the listener, in music of searing pain - which, indeed, is exactly how Schnittke lived much of the latter part of his life.

Martin Anderson

Alfred Schnittke was one of Russia's most prolific and innovative composers and, in the last few years, became one of an élite of composers this century to achieve broad popularity, writes David Revell.

His interest in the European avant-garde was only awakened, however, by a visit to Russia from the Italian composer - and son-in-law of Schoenberg - Luigi Nono in the early Sixties. From then until the late Sixties Schnittke employed serial techniques himself. This brought him hostility from the Soviet authorities, whose criteria for good music were still basically political. Performances of works such as the First Symphony (1968-72) were delayed and often held in obscure parts of the Union (the Symphony premiered in Gorky on 9 February 1974). Other young Russian composers, on the other hand, increasingly admired his daring.

The authorities still let him teach at the Conservatoire and at the Experimental Studio for Electronic Music. From 1972 onwards, he began to make his living as a composer, thanks to such energetic

work as writing music for stage productions of Shaw's *Caesars* and *Cleopatra*, for films of *The Sirens*, *Uncle Vanya* and *Eugene Onegin*.

Starting with his second Violin Concerto (1968), he returned to expressive music in a more broadly dramatic way. He fitted his interest in serialism into this, producing, for example, 12-note rows with implied tonal centres, so that he could build a contrast between tonal and atonal styles into a single piece. He tried this approach in pieces such as *Quasi una Sonata* (1968).

As early as the First Symphony, Schnittke had begun to combine earlier musical styles in pastiche - quotes from Beethoven symphonies, imitation Baroque music, stylised modern dances, and so on. This polystylism is one of his work's most controversial features. Most offended are those who feel they own the music he has cited. When his arrangement of *Stille Nacht* was played near its composer's birth place, Schnittke recalled, "It made some people upset that I made some changes in his music, which gave it a much more mournful sense".

Schnittke received little critical attention in the West before the end of the 1980s. After that, more and more attention was devoted to his music, though some critics derided him for crude structures, unsophisticated themes, and over-sentimentality. What was more significant was that at the same point there was an explosion of interest from a broader public - part of the biggest upsurge this century of enthusiasm for "serious" music, which also brought to prominence composers such as Henryk Gorecki and John Tavener.

Popular interest brought wider opportunities for performances and recordings. Schnittke's pieces were championed by, among others, the cellist Yo-Yo Ma, the violinist Gidon Kremer, and new music stars, the Kronos Quartet. He was also the subject of a film by Donald Struck, *The Unreal World of Alfred Schnittke*.

Why the big explosion of public interest came when it did is a fascinating question. Farly it was because many people were ready for serious music they could actually understand. For decades composers had been pursuing their own musical agendas and scarcely thinking of an audience. A composer who could write dramatic, moving, humorous music, with references to recognisable styles, and who dared to call pieces by the kinds of title people could recognise, would have an enthusiastic welcome. Schnittke genially fitted the bill.

Alfred Schnittke, composer; born Engels, Soviet Republic of Volga Germans 24 November 1934; married 1958 Galina Koltkina (marriage dissolved 1959); 1961 Irina Katayeva (one son); died Hamburg, Germany 3 August 1998.

Shari Lewis

LAMB CHOP, made of a white knitted sock and notable for its squeaky voice, sleepy eyes and long lashes, as well as a slightly contrary nature, was one of a handful of glove puppets known and loved by millions of children who grew up in the golden age of television, before cartoons and pop music-based magazine programmes dominated the daytime and Saturday-morning schedules.

Sooty had already caught the young audience's imagination in Fifties Britain and Pussy Cat Willum was a favourite in ITV's *Small Time* by the time Shari Lewis brought Lamb Chop across the Atlantic from America in the late Sixties.

The entertainer, whose television shows won 12 Emmy awards, was a lifelong campaigner for programmes that educated children. She once told the American Congress: "I think television is a fabulous tool both for education and entertainment. However, in the field

of children's programming, we have allowed it to be used very badly."

Born in New York in 1933, Lewis learned ventriloquism and magic from her father, who was a college professor and magician, and was taught the piano by her mother. Destined to perform, she made her television debut at the tender age of seven in a local programme screened in New York. She went on to study at the High School of Music and Arts in New York and the School of American Ballet, as well as training in acting at the city's Neighborhood Playhouse.

In 1952, when she pulled a rabbit from a hat in *Arthur Godfrey's Talent Scouts*, she became the winner of the show, which had also "discovered" the McGuire Sisters and Patsy Cline. After subsequent small-screen appearances in *Facts 'n' Fun* (1953), *Kartoon Club* (1954), *Shari and Her Friends* (1955) and *ShariLand* (1956), Lewis unleashed

Lamb Chop on the world in *Captain Kangaroo* (1956), a programme mixing stories, songs, sketches, lessons, puppets and cartoons. A forerunner to *Sesame Street*, the show was a landmark in children's television, with its non-condescending attitude towards its viewers.

Lewis went on to star on television in *Hi, Mom* (1957), present the Saturday-morning programme *The Shari Lewis Show* (1960-62), act in *Watching Out for Dulle* (1961) in *The U.S. Steel Hour* series and an episode of *Car 54, Where Are You?* (1963). She also wrote dozens of books, including *The Shari Lewis Puppet Book* (1958), *Fun with Kids* (1960), *Folding Paper Puppets* (1962) and *Dear Shari* (1963).

Then Lewis travelled to Britain to launch *Shari at Six* (1968-76) on BBC Television and Lamb Chop became a favourite all over again, alongside other puppets such as Charlie Horse and Hush Puppy.

She appeared in three Royal Command Performances (1970, 1973, 1978) and followed the BBC programme with another American series, *The Shari Show* (1976-77), but the days of such variety-style shows were numbered and Lewis concentrated on writing books such as *How Kids Can Really Make Money* (1979), *Things Kids Collect* (1981), *One Minute Bedtime Stories* (1982) and *Lamb Chop's Play Along Storybook* (1983).

During her career she also showed her many talents by conducting more than 50 symphony orchestras, including the National Symphony at the Kennedy Center, Washington, the Pittsburgh Symphony and the National Arts Centre Orchestra of Canada. She made records such as *Shari in Storyland* and *Give Your Child a Headstart* and, as well as a string of Emmy awards, won the Monte Carlo International Television Award

(1961) and a Kennedy Center Award for Excellence in the Arts for Young People (1983).

In the Nineties she made a return to television, playing herself in an episode of the internationally screened American series *The Nanny* entitled "Lamb Chop of the Menu" (1995) and subsequently began her own new series *The Charlie Horse Music Pizza* (1998), but the show had to finish shortly after Shari Lewis was diagnosed with uterine cancer in June. Her second husband, the publisher Jeremy Tarcher, is the brother of the author Judith Krantz.

Anthony Hayward

Shari Hurwitz (Shari Lewis), ventriloquist, puppeteer, actress and conductor; born New York 17 January 1933; married first Stan Lewis (marriage dissolved 1959), second Jeremy Tarcher (one daughter); died Los Angeles 2 August 1998.



Non-condescending: Lewis with Lamb Chop

Hulton Getty

Kit Russell



COMMUNITY WORK, the stitching together of social action, local leadership and human potential, is enjoying a rebirth. One of its earliest, most successful and most enduring proponents was Kit Russell.

She began her community development career in the Twenties in Bermondsey living in a Victorian settlement, doing youth work, organising children's clubs and helping families overwhelmed by poverty, ill-health, slum housing and overcrowding. Settlements brought together dedicated outside helpers and local community activists in troubled city neighbourhoods. Living and working in these neglected areas taught them that crude individual poverty could be relieved by joint action and self-help-oriented so-

cial programmes. This disputed but dynamic approach to urban decay and community breakdown taught Russell at an early age that the most marginal communities contain the seeds of growth as well as destruction.

Under the endless pressures of need and an urge to change conditions more radically she found training to be a vital bridge to increased capacity and stamina. Local residents in Bermondsey needed it just as much as community workers like herself who wanted to help. Her work in the new slum clearance estates of Deptford reinforced this need for practical training and capacity building, now dubbed lifetime learning.

Understanding the causes of social problems is vital to uncovering

the solutions. Kit Russell's long and possibly unique love affair with the London School of Economics began when she realised that the tools of her trade could be sharpened by the accumulated wisdom of older practitioners turned teachers. They were committed to helping young activists like Russell link their coalface dedication to the wider task of building a safety net for all.

Eileen Younghusband, her remarkable teacher, mentor and predecessor at the LSE, was a founding thinker behind modern generic, community-based social work. She supported the settlement work, the youth focus and the outreach into estates which Kit Stewart (as she was born) continued while a student at LSE in the late Thirties. Younghus-

band was instrumental 10 years later in persuading the school to appoint Stewart in 1949 as field work tutor for the new diploma in social administration, a post she held for the next 25 years.

Unlike the communities to which Stewart dedicated her youth, the LSE had many flag-bearers. But it needed a practical eye, an ear to the ground, a steady grip to keep its heady academics tuned in to the ambitions of the students it was created to help. The life-shaping task of policy formation in the field of social well-being had to be based on a combined understanding of social, economic, political and practical problems. Stewart joined Richard Titmuss's department of social policy, with Peter Townsend, David

Donnison, Brian Abel-Smith, not to write books with them, but to arrange fieldwork placements for their students. Two thousand five hundred in all passed through her experienced and sensitive hands.

The crowded centre-city campus created by Sidney and Beatrice Webb 100 years ago blossomed through that unique linkage of research, policy and practice. Hundreds of community projects, voluntary organisations, public services, political careers were shaped by the inspired teaching combined with exciting action at the front line. Kit Russell (she married in 1957) welded these together.

In her retirement she helped the relaunch of the Time and Talents charity, in Rotherhithe, east London,

and the birth of the National Tenants' Resource Centre in Chester.

On the day of Kit Russell's funeral, the New Deal for Communities and Sure Start for children were launched as part of the Government's declared drive towards urban renaissance. Will the lessons in "creative neighbourhood care" be remembered in the flurry that surrounds the extra cash? The ideas come from a long tradition, as Russell's long and inspirational life itself shows.

Anne Power

Katherine Stewart, social worker and teacher; born London 6 April 1909; OBE 1976; married 1957 Sheridan Russell (died 1991); died London 9 July 1998.

JP 11/15/50

Matteo Manuguerra

ALTHOUGH HE made his operatic debut in France, and later became a French citizen, the baritone Matteo Manuguerra was best known for his performances of 19th-century Italian opera, especially of Verdi.

During a career that lasted, despite a late start, for over 30 years, he sang, either on stage or disc, in 17 different Verdi operas. He appeared all over Europe, including London, and in North and South America. His voice may have lacked the volume and the cutting edge of some Verdi baritones, but, as a French critic wrote of his performance of Giorgio Germont in *La traviata* at Marseilles, "his phrasing is impeccable, his timbre warm, his tone even and expressive".

His repertoire also contained roles such as Barnaba in *La Gioconda*, Gérard in *Andrea Chénier*, Tonio in *Pagliacci*, and Scarpia in *Tosca*, but it was Verdi to whom he returned again and again.

Born in Tunis of Sicilian parents in 1924, Matteo Manuguerra moved with his family to Argentina in his youth, and it was only at the age of 35 that he began to study singing at the Buenos Aires Conservatory. Having made his concert debut as a tenor in the Mozart *Requiem*, he then became a high baritone.

In 1962 he came to Europe to take up a three-year contract at Lyon, making his first appearance as Valentin in *Fuust*. In 1968 he moved to the Paris Opera, where he sang roles such as Escamillo in *Carmen*, Henry Ashton in *Lucia di Lammermoor* as well as Giorgio Germont and Rigoletto.

He made his US debut in 1968 at Seattle, singing Gérard (with Franco Corelli as Chénier); he returned in 1971 as Renato in *Un ballo in maschera*, and the same year made his first appearance at the Metropolitan Opera, New York, as Henry Ashton.

Manuguerra sang frequently at the Met throughout the 1970s and well into the 1980s. His roles there included Alfio in *Capriccio rustico*, Barnaba in *La Gioconda*, Scarpia, Amonasro in *Aida*, Don Carlo in *La forza del destino*, and Rigoletto. Meanwhile he also began to sing widely in Europe and America.

For the New York Opera Orchestra at Carnegie Hall, he sang Nelusko in Meyerbeer's *L'Africaine*, and the title role of Donizetti's *Il duca d'Alba*. At the Vienna State Opera he sang Scarpia and also Henry Ashton. The latter character, a brother who forces his sister to marry a man she does not love for purely financial reasons, was the kind of part he did particularly well: his villains were never entirely black, but various shades of grey.

All the while his tally of Verdi roles lengthened: Count di Luna in *Il trovatore* and Posa in *Don Carlos* in Buenos Aires; Don Carlo in *Ernani* at Geneva; Montfort in *I vespri siciliani*, Miller in *Luís Miller*, Macbeth and Nabucco in Bilbao; Francesco in *I masnadieri* at La Scala; Simon Boccanegra in Turin; Ezio in *Aida* in Rome; and, in countless opera houses on both sides of the Atlantic, Rigoletto.

Manuguerra sang Rigoletto at Covent Garden in October 1991. He was then 67 years old, but his voice was virtually intact, while the top notes rang out loud and clear. He had become a much better stage actor than earlier in his career, but his emotions, of love and hate, were still conveyed through the voice. He had sung Ankerstroom (as Renato becomes in the version of *Ballo* set in Sweden) at Covent Garden 10 years previously. This was another of his best roles, with the character's warring emotions of loyalty to his king and love for his wife plain to hear in the voice.

Manuguerra made a great many recordings and they are both dramatic and lifelike. His records of Scarpia, Nabucco, Rolando in Verdi's *La battaglia di Legnano* and Francesco in *I masnadieri* are all good, but the two best, I think, are his Giannetto in Zandonai's *Francesca da Rimini*, a creature twisted both in body and soul; and Giorgio Germont (with Joan Sutherland as Violetta) in *La traviata*, where, in the words of one critic, "his phrasing is impeccable, his timbre warm...".

Elizabeth Forbes

Matteo Manuguerra, opera singer, born Tunis 5 October 1924; died Montpelier, France 30 July 1998.



Manuguerra in the title role of *Rigoletto*, San Francisco, 1981

PSYCHOLOGICAL NOTES

PAUL FERRIS

Freudian forgetting, slips and bumbles

OF ALL Sigmund Freud's contributions to popular speech and amateur psychology, the "Freudian slip" is probably the most enduring. His life's work, now widely challenged, was to present the mind as an arena where the "conscious" and "unconscious" were perpetually at war. The "slip", whether of word or deed, showed the principle in action.

According to the theory, a similar conflict could be found in dreams. But dreams were so complex and significant, based as they were on experiences of early life, that they needed expert advice to unravel. This is why generations of Freudian analysts whose business it has been to do the unravelling have prospered.

Freudian slips by comparison are plain man's stuff, allowing everyone to be their own psychologist. When Radio 4's *Today* referred recently to the BBC's "new spanking building" instead of "spanking new building", listeners responded to the unconscious innuendo with gleeful letters.

The central text is *The Psychopathology of Everyday Life*, subtitled "Forgetting, Slips of the Tongue, Bungled Actions, Superstitions and Errors", first published in book form in 1904 and then enlarged, edition by edition, over the next 20 years. The forgetting of names fills pages, the general idea being that the forbidden word has distressing or annoying associations that are best covered up. Freud, who had a sense of humour, even suggested that aristocrats have difficulty remembering the names of doctors they consult because inwardly they despise them. On the action front, people may be punishing themselves. Thus men who look back lustily at women in the street often sprain an ankle or walk into a lamppost. One has to assume this happened more often in Freud's time than it does in ours.

Sex was often lurking. Freud quotes a colleague, a womaniser called Stelzel, who entered a house, put out a hand to greet his hostess and "contrived in doing so to undo the bow that held her loose morning-gown together. I was conscious of no dishonourable intention; yet I carried out this clumsy movement with the dexterity of a conjurer".

A wife who complained that her husband made too many sexual demands - as wives seemed to, in those days - found him using



Freud had a sense of humour

her face-powder on his chin after shaving, and said, "There you go again, powdering me with your puff." By reversing what she meant to say, "powdering yourself with my puff", she produced an unconscious sexual rebuke, "powdering" being Viennese slang for copulating, while "puff" was doubtless a phallic symbol.

As early as 1914, when the book first appeared in an English translation, a popular magazine in London was telling readers about this "curious and fascinating new system of self-examination", which is about the level of significance that most of us still grant it. The deeper message - that if a "Freudian slip" suggests anything, it is that we are never as fully in control of ourselves as we like to think - is overlooked.

Freud's obsessive, ambitious nature made him take all his beliefs to extreme lengths, which is not to deny the grains of truth scattered thickly through his books. I like to think I found an unacknowledged example by Freud, about Freud, where, in another work, he described getting lost in a town and finding himself three times in the same street of brothels. Internal evidence suggests that he was remembering an episode in Trieste when he was a young man. However, he ignored the obvious conclusion, that the reason he kept returning was his hidden desire to visit a prostitute.

Watching for others' Freudian slips is an amusing game, but be careful they aren't watching for yours.

Paul Ferris is the author of *Dr Freud: a Life* (Pimlico, £15)

Roy Rogers

MUSICALLY, THERE was far more to Roy Rogers than "Four Legged Friend", his popular tribute to Trigger, writes Paul Wadey further to the obituary by David Shipman, 7 July.

Along with Gene Autry, Tex Ritter and a handful of others he helped to put the "western" into "country and western"; his status as a wholesome, clean-cut icon to millions brought mass acceptance and dignity to a genre that was struggling to lose the label "hillbilly". To date, he remains the only person to have twice been elected to the Country Music Hall of Fame: first in 1980 as an original member of the Sons of the Pioneers, and second, nine years later, in his own right.

In 1933, following brief periods with now forgotten groups like the Rocky Mountaineers, the O-Bar-O Cowboys and the Texas Outlaws, Len Slye, as he was then still known, joined forces with

Bob Nolan and Tim Spencer to form the Pioneer Trio. Realising that the short life of many bands was due to a lack of both professionalism and originality, they honed their vocal work and their song-writing skills with the intention of creating something new. The quintet they made with the jazz-influenced Farr brothers Hugh and Karl, on fiddle and guitar respectively, formed the nucleus of the great western harmony group the Sons of the Pioneers.

Signed to Decca, they began recording the songs which became the core repertoire of "western" music including "Way Out There" and "Tumbling Tumbleweeds" (both 1934) and "There's A Round-up in the Sky" (1935). These Decca cuts and those recorded for ARC in 1937, especially the superb and long-unissued "Cowboy Night Herd Song", are notable for the beautiful tex-

tures produced by the subtle interplay of vocal solos, duos and trios and for the Farris' dazzling guitar and fiddle breaks.

Although Rogers parted from the Pioneers when his film career took off, they remained on good terms and often recorded and appeared with him. In 1940 he cut his first discs for Decca as a solo star; sessions which were notable for his early championing of important C&W songwriters like Fred Rose and Ray Whitley ("You Won't Be Long"), Jimmie Davis and Ted Daffan ("Worried Mind") and Cindy Walker ("Blue Bonnet Lane"). In 1944, in the film *Hollywood Canteen*, he introduced the Cole Porter standard "Don't Fence Me In", a song which Porter had purchased from a Montana rancher named Bob Fletcher. A year later it became the title of another Rogers movie.

Over the next 30 years he recorded

for RCA, Capitol and Word. His later albums, many of them featuring his wife Dale Evans, were often of a religious nature and included *The Bible Tells Me So* (1962) and *In the Sweet By and By* (1973). He also made several popular children's records.

In 1974 he broke into the country charts with the nostalgic "Happy Gene and Me" and six years later repeated the feat with "Bide, Concrete Cowboy, Ride" from the soundtrack of *Smoky and the Bandit II*. In 1991 he was the subject of a tribute album on RCA on which he duetted with many of Nashville's finest, from Emmylou Harris and Willie Nelson to Clint Black.

On the album's final track these admirers appropriately join Roy and Dale for a warm rendition of the theme tune to their long-running television show, *Happy Trails*.

GAZETTE

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS

DEATHS

MITCHELL, Peter, died 2 August aged 72. Beloved husband of Pat and dear father of David, John and Rosemary. Chris and Ruth. Ian, grandfather of Thomas, Benjamin, Simon, Andrew and Joanne. Funeral service Friday 7 August 2.30pm, St Peter's Church, Woolton, Liverpool. Family flowers only please. Gifts in memory of the Simon Peter Centre and cancer research to be sent c/o St Peter's Church.

PHILLIPS, Trevor, suddenly in Winchester, on 29 July. Much-loved father and grandfather who will be greatly missed. Private cremation, followed by a service at the Parish Church of St Peter and St Paul, Kimpton, near Andover, Hampshire, on Friday 7 August at 2.30pm. No flowers, please. Donations may be sent to the Simon Peter Centre, c/o Joe Steel and Son, Chesham House, Winchester SO23 0HH.

Announcements for Gazette BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS are charged at £6.50 a line (VAT extra). OTHER Gazette announcements must be submitted in writing and are charged at £10 a line. VAT extra. Always include a daytime telephone number.

BIRTHDAYS

Professor Neil Armstrong, first man on the Moon, 68; Dr Duane Arnold, Principal, St Chad's College, Durham University, 45; Mr Billy Bingham, football manager, 67; Sir Michael Drury, Emeritus Professor of General Practice, Birmingham University, 72; Miss Barbara Flynn, actress, 50; Miss Joan Hickson, actress, 92; Lord Hindlip, chairman, Christie's International, 58; Mr Alan Howard, actor, 61; Field Marshal Lord Inge, Constable of the Tower of London, 68; Mr Richard Jewson, former chairman, Meyer International, 64; Sir Michael Kerry, former Procurator General, 75; Mr Michal Kovac, President of Slovakia, 68; Sir Bert Millichip, Life Vice-President, the Football Association, 84; Mr John Monks, General Secretary, TUC, 53; Mr Turlough O'Donnell, former Lord of Appeal, Northern Ireland, 74; Mr Rodney Pattison, yachtsman, 55; Mr Keith Pearson, former Headmaster, George Heriot's School, Edinburgh, 57; Sir Eric Pountain, chairman, James Beattie, 63; The Hon Miriam Rothschild, zoologist and entomologist, 90; Sir Nicholas Scott, former MP,

65; Lord Sefton of Garston, former chairman, North West Economic Planning Council, 83; Mr Peter Smith, chairman, Coopers and Lybrand, 52; Mr John Speller, MP Parliamentary Under-Secretary, Defence, 51; Jimmy Webb, songwriter, 52; Mr John Whitaker, showjumper, 43.

ANNIVERSARIES

Births: Alexander William Kinglake, historian and traveller, 1809; Henri-René Albert-Guy de Maupassant, author, 1850; Conrad Potter Aiken, novelist and poet, 1889; Harold Holt, Australian prime minister, 1908; Robert Taylor (Spangler Arlington Brugh), actor, 1911.

Deaths: Thomas Newcomen, inventor and engineer, 1729; James Gibbs, architect, 1754; Lord Frederick North, second Earl of Guilford, statesman, 1792; Richard, Earl Howe ("Black Dick"), naval officer, 1799; Alexis-Benoit Soyer, master cook and writer, 1858; William Henry Giles Kingston, author of boys' books, 1880; Thomas Henry Wyatt, architect, 1880; Friedrich Engels, political writer, 1895; Philip William

"Phil" May, caricaturist, 1903; Catherine "Skittles" Walters, courtesan, 1920; Ella Shields (Buscher), music-hall artiste and male impersonator, 1952; Marilyn Monroe (Norma Jean Mortenson), film actress, 1962; Richard Burton (Richard Walter Jenkins), actor, 1984.

On this day: Sir William Wallace, leader of the Scots, was captured by the English, 1305; Sir Humphrey Gilbert took possession of Newfoundland for England, 1583; the first electrical traffic signals in the world were installed, Cleveland, Ohio 1914; German forces entered Warsaw, 1915; polygraph was abolished in Turkey, 1924; the British transatlantic airmail service was started, 1930; the musical *Solid Dicks* was first produced, London 1954; the European Monetary Agreement was signed, 1960; the French Southern and Antarctic Territories were created, 1955; the French colony of Upper Volta became independent, 1960; a nuclear test ban treaty was signed by Britain, the US and the Soviet Union, 1963.

Today is the Feast Day of St Abel, Saints Addai and Mari, St Adra and St Nonna.

ROYAL ENGAGEMENTS

The Queen visits Kincardine Community Hospital, Stonehaven, Kincardineshire. Prince Edward launches Scottish Power's video promoting Outward Bound at the Glasgow Climbing Centre.

CHANGING OF THE GUARD

The Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment mounts the Queen's Life Guard at Horse Guards, 11am; 1st Battalion Welsh Guards mounts the Queen's Guard, at Buckingham Palace, 11.30am.

LECTURES

National Gallery: Alexander Sturgis, "Venice (I): Titian, *The Death of Actaeon*", 1pm. Victoria and Albert Museum: Katharine Hugh, "Secular Imagery in Medieval Art", 2pm. Tate Gallery: Jonathan Blackwood, "Jacob Epstein", 1pm. British Museum: Luke Syson, "Medal Making in Stuart Britain", 11.30am.

The shorts answer to short skirts

THE INDEPENDENT ARCHIVE

5 AUGUST 1988

City shorts are high fashion this summer and are the modern answer to the rising hemline

THE PRINCESS of Wales walked into Le Caprice last month in khaki shorts and a hush jacket. Not since the sun set on the Empire has there been such a fetching outfit to show off royal knees.

The shorts suit has become the star of this doubtful summer. The princess put her seal of approval on an outfit that is now city sleek, rather than just for weekends and sportswear.

Long shorts have become the answer to the short skirt. You see shorts in the office - trim, well-pressed in cotton drill, and as business-like as when they were part of a colonial military kit. The favoured colour is khaki, but shorts come also in crisp navy blue poplin, in pin-striped linens, in dark Madras checked seersucker, or in white cotton. They look their best with a tailored top half - a plain white shirt or waistcoat.

The idea of shorts as a divided skirt is as old as gymnastics. St. Irimian's and games mistresses who played jolly hockey sticks. In those far-off schoolgirl days, the motive was to keep girls looking decent while playing male sports. Today's shorts - so different in spirit from the stern navy serge and chaste pleats - serve a similar function. They are worn by women who are in favour of the freedom and style of the short skirt, but unwilling to accept its sexist connotations.

The mini-skirt of the 1960s was born of the Pill and sexual liberation, and its perky, peek-a-boo image expressed that social change. Now that women are aware of the darker side of the sexual revolution, such insouciant, come-on clothes seem foolhardy. For

professional women in positions of authority, the mini-skirt suggests dolly-girl status. This summer, there are far more shorts on the streets than short skirts, and they come for both sexes - convincing proof that shorts are accepted as stylish and practical. But, whereas men have only pleated-front shorts in varying degrees of bagginess, women's fashion has come up with alternatives.

The tailored above-the-knee shorts, cut like trousers, are by far the most popular and are worn in heavier fabrics as well as the summer cottons. There is also a firmer short, shaped on Lana Turner lines, with a defined waist and flaring legs. These shorts look more playful and are therefore for the beach rather than the office. They are worn with shapely off-the-shoulder blouses or scoop-front T-shirts, with wedge-heeled sandals or ballerina flaties.

On the waterfront, there are also sporty cycle shorts in stretch lycra, that mould to the figure and are also worn by both men and women. On Mediterranean beaches, boxer shorts are still the height of

fashion, this season coming up in fluorescent colours and wild primitive prints.

In town, there is another type of shorts which should more properly be called culottes. They look like a skirt except when sitting down, and seem to be worn by women who are hovering uncertainly between mid-calf skirts and shorts, and have settled at half-mast.

How the shorts are worn makes the real difference between sporty and city styles. Holidaymakers will wear shorts in the familiar way, with white socks and trainers, with a T-shirt or cotton sweater on the upper half. It is essentially a casual look.

For work, shorts are worn with sandals or flat pumps or, increasingly, with a low-heeled shoe that smartens up the outfit. On the streets of Paris, shorts suits are pulled together with a battery of accessories - wide elastic belts to cinch in the waist with a brief bolero jacket, or a tan leather belt to grip tailored shorts or to fasten the longer fitted jackets that partner them.

Accepting that shorts are a modern fashion far removed from their original sporty associations is the hallmark of this summer's style. The Princess of Wales wore her shorts suit with beige pumps and a clutch bag tucked under her arm. Perhaps the only thing that cannot be worn with shorts is a pair of tights. Even in a British summer, the ultimate accessory is a pair of well-browned legs.

Suzi Menkes

From the Fashion page of *The Independent*, Friday 5 August 1988

WORDS

WILLIAM HARTSTON defining moment

IT LOOKS highly likely that 1998 will set a new record for defining moments, beating the high mark set last year. With 411 appearances in 1997 in our newspaper database, *defining moment* was one of the clichés of the year. By contrast there had been only 207 *defining moments* in 1996, slightly down from the 237 in 1995.

Even those, however, were clearly more definitive years than the two that preceded them: there were 102 *defining moments* in 1994 and only 62 in 1993.

The tally so far this year is 302, which, with five months of the year still to run, predicts a total of over 500, well ahead of the figure for 1997.

The rise in *defining moments* may also be matched by a record number of watersheds, which look set to top the 800 mark for the first time.



Written on the body

Your T-shirt says more about you than mere personality ever can.

Words: **Melanie Rickey**

Photographs: **Donna Trope**

Styling: **Holly Wood**

The humble T-shirt is one of the easiest and cheapest forms of making a statement. Katharine Hammett found fame through her anti-nuclear T-shirt slogan "58 per cent Say No To Pershing" and "Choose Life" in 1983, and is still on the campaign trail with her latest, "Passports for Pets". "Frankie Says Relax" is another classic of the genre. But that was the Eighties. Today the T-shirt is more fashionable than political.

In the past few years we've had the kiddies' T-shirt trend, thanks to Paula Yates and Yasmin Le Bon plundering their daughters' wardrobes for Little Miss Trouble, Minnie Mouse and their ilk; and the *Trainspotting* trend when everyone wanted one like Ewan McGregor's, which was an original Seventies number that should have stayed in the sp bin at Oxfam.

More recently the unisex street label YMC has taken a graph paper print and put it on T-shirts. Vivienne Westwood cuts them on the bias and charges £105 for the privilege, and high street stores Warehouse and French Connection cover them with beads and sequins. A sign of the times, certainly, but there are some obsessives who go to greater lengths for the ultimate T-shirt.

Fashion designer John Rocha, for example, has 12 identical white T-shirts made for him twice a year because the design this own from three years ago flatters his shape. He is not alone. Kenneth Mackenzie, the designer of men's label 6876, has a thing about Agnès B and Comme des Garçons long-sleeved T-shirts and always makes sure he's stocked up.

Mackenzie and Rocha represent the purist approach. Anyone with more than a passing interest in looking well turned out - ie anyone who works in fashion, arts or design-related fields - will have a bit of this purist streak in their blood. The shape, style, fabric and colour - black, white or grey - must be just so (mine's a Gap slim-fit V-neck

that, annoyingly, has been discontinued). Stylist Holly Wood favours an early Eighties Vivienne Westwood Seditionaries T-shirt. Once the right T-shirt is found it is difficult to change, and everyone has their own favourite.

Aside from black, white and grey classics, however, there is another world of T-shirts out there. The big and baggy, that can be bought from any market; the sporty, such as Adidas, Nike and Tommy Hilfiger; and the tiny, from kid's shops. The trendy, the arty and the cool are a different matter and are subject to personal tastes, but this lot are a pretty good example. We spent all weekend putting them on customers at a McDonald's drive-thru in East London.

One of the favourites of the day was from Antoni & Alison, the duo who changed the face of T-shirt fashion in the early Nineties by plastering "Love It" across the front of a classic tee. They began a fad for slogan T-shirts that proclaimed

everything about their wearer from "Babe" to "Whore".

"The lipstick one is about all the things you can find in your make-up case," says Antoni, whose passion

for the T-shirt has not waned after 10 years in the business. "When we first started to work with them it was because the T-shirt was taken for granted and overlooked. Then it became something we could play with." And play with it they do. Their latest bestseller is printed simply with "1974".

"We had a guy drive up to the shop on Saturday in his big car who walked in, bought 1974, and walked out wearing it."

According to Antoni "1974" can mean anything, Alison says: "It reminds me of the year I played the little lamb in a nativity play." Antoni reveals: "I was experimenting with my Ziggy Stardust-inspired hair and make-up."

Unfortunately 1974 was out of stock at the time of the shoot, but we are reliably informed that there will be more by the end of the week. *Tunisia Blanchard is on holiday*



Jody Brown wears French Connection Tee, £30



Tom wears Oeuf backwards T-shirt, £30



Richard wears pink spotty Tee, £30 by Oeuf



Chris wears Jimi Hendrix T-shirt, £30, by Union



Buffet wears Pink Toulouse Lantrec t-shirt, £25, by Born Free



Liz wears lipstick T-shirt, £37.50, by Antoni and Alison



Alan wears navy T-shirt, £30, by Generic Costume

TEE STOCKISTS

Oeuf, enquiries 0171-379 4660
Born Free mail order and enquiries 0171-837 4757
Generic Costume and Union from Browns Focus, enquiries 0171-629 0666
French Connection, nationwide enquiries 0171-399 7200
YMC available nationwide, enquiries 0171-251 8861
Antoni and Alison, available from Selfridges, Oxford Street, London W1, and the Antoni & Alison shop, stockist enquiries 0171-833 2002



Stacey wears graph Tee, £35, by YMC

HOT THING

THE HAIR SLIDE



Flower-child Drew Barrymore

feminism, style vs comfort debate. Because the two exist in parallel, the hair slide will be reborn again and again. Right now the only place

to shop for kiddie hair fashion is Claire's Accessories, a Pandora's box of a shop which has branches popping up at the rate of one per week in the UK. Toys 'R' US, Hamley's and Sainsbury's also provide a good hunting ground for adult regressives to indulge their childhood fantasies. Elle fashion assistant Cathy Chan would disagree: she admits to liking Barbie accessories on the pages of her magazine. "It's not about regressing. I don't take it that seriously. I like them because they are cheap, humorous and light-hearted, and it saves spending a fortune on expensive, fashiony things."

The ultra girly look is now considered passé, but only to a degree.

For, while floaty nighties, eeny-weeny cardies and school uniforms are not hip for a woman over 21, and inappropriate for the office, the practicalities of the hairslide cannot be ignored. Indeed, the choice of hair slide is a discreet, yet telling example of inner personality. The child's hair accessory is arguably the comedy tie or Disney socks of working women everywhere. Most women do not think about the deeper meaning of what they wear in their hair...

How about a revolution in hair accessories? Let's again take the lead from Courtney Love, and swap cute for couture. Chuck out those silly tiaras (so trashy), and the but-

terfly clips that look as if they have accidentally landed on the head (just ridiculous). After all, it's time we grew up. Big girls don't cry, they spend. Indeed, maybe this is one for Calvin Klein and Donna Karan: chic hairclips, for just £30 each? (Just an idea.) Anyway, everyone knows that comedies are not the sign of a worker with a sense of humour, but a man with too much time on his hands.

And who can say that about the Nineties woman?

LOTTE STOREY
Claire's Accessories has 104 branches nationwide. Call 0121-682 8000 for stockists. Prices from 99 pence to £15.99

THE VERY nature of fashion dictates that what may be "in" one week, will be "out" the next. Over the past few years one accessory has defied this rule, and remains in perpetual production through high street stores nationwide. The humble hair clip, once a plain, yet practical schoolgirl essential took off in a big way in the eruption of "girly" chic that defined 1994. Barrettes, as they are known in their native US, were first popularised by Riot Grrrls, and brought to the fore by Courtney Love in 1993. Her kinderwhore look combined cutesy kiddie fashion with aggressive makeup, footwear, and of course, music. The point was that the look sug-

gested one thing, but the reality was totally different.

Sure, the clips were used to adorn bleach-blond, cigarette-burned hair, but they were designed ultimately to make a point about women as objects. Irony was as much a part of it as the neo-feminist manifestos. Yet whilst the Riot Grrrl movement has died a death, the child's hair accessory in all its permutations - tiara, hairband, kirby grip, bobble, and hair-clip - has risen from the ashes.

On the bus, I saw an old-ish lady (by which I mean she hadn't been to school for a long time), wearing some hairslides shaped like arrows. It struck me as odd that she

wore something so directly pointing out her greying hairs. Of course, this illustrates the flip side of the hair clip debate - they may be covered in sequins, bows, and diamante, or disguised as butterflies, flowers, or Japanese cartoons characters like Hello Kitty, but at least they're practical. The original reason for their existence is of course to tame our barnets, but why not fix a dodgy do with a simple, no-fuss clip? Why these ridiculous trips back to primary school when they were forced upon us? Those of us who remember the origins of kiddie fashion are beginning to wonder why they are still around. Perhaps it's down to the fashion vs

to Eternity



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Handwritten note: *John 11/10/98*

You ask the questions

(Such as, Ken Livingstone, ex-Borgia of the hard Left, can you recommend a decent white wine for under £5?)

Ken Livingstone, born in London in 1945, joined the Labour Party in 1969. He ran the Greater London Council (GLC) from 1981 to 1986, earning the nickname "Red Ken". Ken Baker called him "The Borgia of the hard Left". Opinion polls rate him as the politician Londoners would most like to have as mayor - he has just released a manifesto outlining his plans were he to succeed, including free entry to London Zoo and the pedestrianisation of Soho. He lives with his partner, Kate Allen, in Cricklewood.

For destroying the GLC and trashing the post-war settlement, do you hate and despise Margaret Thatcher as much as I do?
Andy F. Rugby, Warwickshire.
I think she was a psychopath who in different circumstances might have killed tens of millions. Instead she just demolished the quality of life for the vast majority of the people in Britain.

I know you enjoy drinking white wine, could you recommend something for less than £5 a bottle?
David Godfrey, Twickenham.
Any main supermarket has reasonably good wine for under £5 a bottle.

What crimes have you committed?
Martin Hughes, Jersey.
In 1971 stole a German-English dictionary from Streatham WH Smith.

Which MP do you have greatest respect for?
Christopher Bing, Perth.
John Hulme.

What books and political events have had the most influence on your convictions?
Patrick Fox, Basingstoke.
1984 and *Animal Farm*.

If you were castaway with one Tory MP, which one would you hope it would be and why?
Linda Cowley, Dorset.
I would prefer solitary confinement.

As leader of the GLC, you effected meaningful change with the backing of a multi-member au-

thority, numerous officials and a massive infrastructure. As mayor, you will be politically "on your own", with less staff/infrastructure and presumably less statutory powers. How will you effect meaningful change this time? (I'm sure you'll be elected).
Andrew Holdcroft, The Hill College.
The failure of the GLC was that it was not a strategic authority. As a vast bureaucracy delivering personal services it was really a big council. The Government's new GLA is a strategic authority and therefore doesn't need the staffing levels of the GLC. To effect meaningful change your policies have to be right which is much more important than the size of your organisation.

Why did you shave your moustache?
Keith Flett, east London.
I only grew it to look older when I was 23, this is no longer a priority.

Will post 2000 politics bring new Tony Benns' and Ken Livingstones' or simply a growing collection of "goons" with advertising degrees?
Nick Fille, St Lawrence, Jersey.
Most definitely. If someone in 1989 had predicted that Tony Benn would become the leader of the Left they would have been laughed out of the debate. Somewhere on the vertebrate-free Labour hack benches lurks the Benn of 2010. It will only be with time that we discover who it is. My money's on Yvette Cooper!

How do you think your role as mayor would differ from leading the GLC? Do you envisage public transport being as cheap as it was during your days on the GLC?
Anon.
The two jobs are completely different. Cutting fares on the Tube now wouldn't have the same effect as in 1981. Then we had unused capacity, now you couldn't squeeze anyone else onto it. Fares must come down in real terms to get people out of their cars but the most important thing is to get more public transport capacity.

As boss of the GLC you acted as a kind of unofficial diplomat to Northern Ireland. Why did you only contact Sinn Féin, and



GLYNN GRIFFITHS

through them the IRA and not the SDLP or the Alliance Party? Are you a terrorist at heart?
Christopher Walker, London.
There was no point in talking to anyone else. You had to talk to the people who were doing the fighting as the British government eventually discovered 10 years on and after another 1,000 lives had been lost.

If you could no longer live in the UK but could choose any other country where would you choose? If, one day, Tony Blair said, "Ken, I will grant you one wish..." What would you ask for?
Sean Roche, Holland/Chancellor of the Exchequer.

William Hague has had his sinuses drained. Would you consider doing the same?
Nicolas Sedah, Sutton Coldfield.
No.

What is an asoloti - do you have one?
Jon Rollinson, biologist, Perth.
It is the juvenile form of a sala-

mander. It evolved in the deserts of Mexico when it became too dry for salamanders on land.

What is your preferred electoral system for local government in London?
Alastair Morrison, Hayes.
The German additional member system.

Do you believe the Palestinians have a right to independence and self-determination and the right of return?
George Abenstern & Linda Clair, Rochdale.
Absolutely. There will be no peace in the Middle East until the Palestinians have their own state and the right to return to those parts of Israel they were driven out of.

You have to spend £500 in Harvey Nichols, what would you buy?
Angela, Fulham, London.

Is it appropriate that the old GLC

building is full of fishy things and sharks?
Marcus Beale, Cornwall.
I just wish I had the sharks there to deal with difficult colleagues when I was leader of the GLC.

What sort of car do you drive?
Pete Greer, Ipswich.
I don't drive.

What's your idea of a romantic night out?
Lizzie McEwen, Surrey.
A pleasant meal in a restaurant where I can hear myself think.

Do you think that an economic crisis on the scale of the oil crisis in the 1970s may come from the potential collapse of the Asian tiger economies, which could result in the withdrawal of the cheap labour that props up free-market capitalism in the West?
Andrew Curtis, Hampshire.
I expect the recession to be the least bad of the last 20 years insofar as it affects Britain. But there is always

the possibility that political misjudgements will precipitate something much worse.

You are on the record as being in favour of a strict privacy law. Have you got something to hide?
Richard Nelsson, Streatham Hill, London.
No, it's just that I want to try and end the English and American obsessions with other people's sex lives in the hope that they will put more effort into their own.

If you become Lord Mayor of London what will you do to help the many union members who work for London Underground who, under PFF, face worsening terms and conditions and reduced pension rights, and how can you help in the meantime?
Simon Ponsbury.
By the time we have a mayor it will be too late. We have to campaign now to protect trade union members' rights from worsening under PFF.

What do you call your favourite newt?
William Smyth, Stockport.
I never gave them names.

In your latest manifesto, how can you justify free entry to London Zoo if you were mayor? Surely it would cost a fortune?
Monica Diamond, Highgate.
No, because with many museums now being free in London, there could be problems with the numbers visiting London Zoo going down. It's a huge educational source as well.

Do you feel it's time for a new nickname - perhaps Pink Ken?
Jane Ellis, Oxford.
I never was as Red as they said.

Do you think the Government will entirely approve of your plans as would-be mayor?
Nick Johnson, Holland Park.
Yes. I understand Tony Blair is sitting by a pool in Tuscany saying, "What a bright young fellow Ken is. And why didn't I give him a job?"

NEXT WEEK: MAX CLIFFORD

Please send any questions you would like to put to PR supremo Max Clifford, to: You Ask The Questions, Features, The Independent, 1 Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 5DL; by fax on 0171-293 2182; or e-mail them to your questions@independent.co.uk by lunch time on Friday, 7 August



IRRITATIONS OF MODERN LIFE

8: MUZAK
BY VERONICA GROOCOCK

MUSIC IS my passion. I like it neat, not watered down. But, as in all the best love affairs, I have to be in the mood to indulge in it. I don't like it thrust on me without my consent. Not some tinny travesty of Telemann or Tchaikovsky. No vile versions of Beethoven or Vivaldi. I refer, of course, to muzak, that prolific impostor insidiously and increasingly putting itself about like some insolent upstart. That aesthetically offensive, pernicious product of our consumerist culture. Depressing enough when confined to supermarkets and shopping malls, but increasingly used as a device to keep us fuming with frustration on the end of the line.

"That immortal refrain, 'I'll just put you on hold', can signal some excruciatingly painful moments. I steel myself for the intrusion and brandish the receiver several feet away from my ear, thereby risking being cut off and having to go through the whole caboodle again. I can feel my stress levels rising.

And there is no escape. It is everywhere: banks, newspaper offices, even the doctor's surgery. Hi-tech telephone systems mask a multitude of sins. My accountant, a classical musician, finds her office's shiny new jingle particularly obnoxious and has been desperately trying to erase it. In my own case, I'd have thought twice before buying my latest answerphone had I



realised that a tacky electronic version of Beethoven's "Für Elise" (referred to only as "a melody" in the user guide) was part of the package.

The longer the wait to speak to a Real Person, the greater the build-up of rage and frustration. In pre-jingle days, it was quite common to hear clicks on the line, indicating a human presence out there somewhere. And an occasional interjection of "Hello, are you there?", might elicit a response, even if it was only "Trying to connect you". Not any more. These days you are at the mercy of the resident robot's repeated mantra: "Sorry. All our lines are busy at present."

And before you can say "Stuff the jingle, silence is golden", you're in for another dose of Baroque, or much worse. We hang on are well and truly grounded.

Unsolicited music, like the uninvited guest, invades your privacy and peace of mind. For me, music is an intimate pleasure, to be enjoyed on its terms, no one else's. I want to savour it at leisure, in a place of

my choosing, be it home, church, concert hall, disco. Or, when I'm in transit, on my personal stereo, where it doubles as a necessary antidote to the mobile phone.

If only the powers-that-be would realise that theirs is an abortive strategy, that what presumably is designed to keep me hanging on and happy, actually has the reverse effect. Instead of soothing, it makes me seethe. Instead of entertaining and uplifting, it nearly drives me to destruction (as well as distraction).

When some of our greatest composers are reduced to the level of the uniformly bland, expedient soundbite, it's hardly surprising if everything winds up sounding the same. When experienced in such an artificial context, a much-loved piece of music can be ruined for all time. Handel's Water Music, to name one favourite of mine, is forever tainted by being played to death down the line.

Muzak, as well as being a grotesque abuse of "real" music, is aural pollution, period. Our environment is already awash with other forms of pollution, over which most of us have little or no control. Muzak has to be the most banal, avoidable form of it. I'd like to see it banned throughout the telephone network. Or, if that is too radical for today's technocrats, then perhaps we can be offered an additional "option" to the usual list: press zero for Silence.

Why do men kill their children?

This most tragic, illogical crime begs a vital question. By Jack O'Sullivan



Lucy, Holly and Thomas Carter

PA

WE WILL never know for sure what went on in Stephen Carter's mind as he killed his three children at the weekend. Lucy, aged seven, Thomas, aged four, and three-year-old Holly died in the family car. It appears that they were drugged before Mr Carter set the car alight. Then he hanged himself from a nearby tree. Suddenly, a family had been wiped out, leaving the mother, Teresa Carter, to live with her terrible loss. Mrs Carter has been left utterly powerless, with no possibility of setting matters right and, because her husband is also dead, no chance of thoroughly understanding why he killed their children.

The danger is that the rush to explain will lead to blame being settled upon the bereaved, who are already overburdened. Psychobabbling is entertaining, but it can be dangerous. Those who lose family through a suicide are much more likely than the average person to kill themselves. We need to hear Mrs Carter's welfare closely in mind.

Yet you can already see the story being constructed in terms which say that everything would have been all right had Mrs Carter been a loyal wife. A tragedy is fast being turned into a morality tale.

Mrs Carter had left the family for a year; then had become reconciled only seven weeks ago. Her husband apparently feared that she was about to leave again. That must have been very distressing for him. But it is worth remembering that it is commonplace for women and, indeed, men, to be left alone with their children, deserted by their partners. They usually survive. Suicide and murder rarely follow. So to understand why everything turned out so terribly wrong in this case, you

need to know the complex psychological details of this particular family, this particular man.

This is also true of other cases, for although such instances of mass killing are unusual, they happen with some regularity. In February, Kenneth McKay slit his throat after knifing his two children, while their mother screamed for help. McKay died. The children survived. The couple had had a long history of domestic disputes and had split up some months before.

In January, Paul Macin, a 37-year-old mechanic from Derbyshire, died in a burning car with his two children, a month after his partner had left him. Mr Macin had been depressed and had talked of suicide. When passers-by tried to pull him

from the burning vehicle, he pushed them aside.

We may never discover the secrets of such tragedies, but it is possible to resolve one paradox: how can a man love his children, and yet kill them? There are many possible reasons for such extreme action. There was, for example, once a patient at Scotland's maximum-security hospital in Carstairs, who had suffered a "pathological sense of altruism". He killed his family after developing an acute sense of the danger that they faced in the world. He perceived killing them as an act of kindness.

The man eventually recovered, and then had to deal with the horror of what he had done.

"A man might see himself as the lone protector of his children against a powerful and evil threat," explains Avi Shmueli, a marital psychotherapist at London's Tavistock Marital Studies Institute. A deranged mind may well identify the loss of a mother and wife, or the break-up of a family, as just such a threat, he says.

"The father may feel that he could in some way immortalise himself and his children - put them beyond harm and hurt - by dying himself, after taking their lives."

It may come as a surprise to some people that a man can become so intensely involved with his children as this, especially given the conventional wisdom that fathers tend to be marginal figures in families. But Avi Shmueli is unsurprised: "A father can feel just as much as a mother about his children. Those feelings may not be as accessible but they can be just as intense."

However, you cannot escape the truth that killing a child is also a highly aggressive act, in particular towards the mother.

"It can be an act of huge anger. The father has taken away her power, leaving her with nothing she can do," explains Shmueli. So why, you wonder, don't men in these circumstances kill their wives instead of their children?

"There may be a very good reason," he says. "It could be that the man realises that if he kills his wife he will end up in jail for life and he will lose his children. So that is no solution if he is trying to protect them. There is something about killing them and himself which means that he both hurts the person he thinks can damage them, and places all of them beyond being hurt ever again."

Bayreuth: How very Wagnerian

For the purist, it is *the* Wagner venue. But this year, Bayreuth has been beset by controversy and feuding. By Paul Levy

Every July on the first night of the Richard Wagner festival at Bayreuth, the townspeople of this small Bavarian city line the pavements of the Green Hill that leads to the Festspielhaus, the theatre that Wagner designed down to the last detail. The crowds are there to gawp at some of the outlandish frocks worn by the ladies and, last Saturday at the cavalcade of first-nighters.

It is the ambition of all Wagner-lovers to hear his operas performed at Bayreuth, in the auditorium with the acoustical properties the composer wanted. Tickets are almost impossible to get, although, at an average price of £25, they are not expensive by international opera standards. You either have to put your name on a waiting list for a few years, or short-circuit the process by joining one of the Wagner societies affiliated to the Friends of Bayreuth. Apparently an annual contribution of 5,000DM will get your name to the top of the list.

So devoted are the Wagnerites that they will not only wait years for tickets, but also sit in seats without arms, in a hot, badly ventilated auditorium, in rows without aisles and with no means of escape once the performance has started. And note that, with intervals, *Götterdämmerung* lasts nearly seven hours.

But despite the 20-minute ovation for this season's opening-night revival of *The Flying Dutchman*, there's turmoil and worry about survival beneath the surface.

This year is the 87th festival. For the past two years there have been no new productions and Wolfgang Wagner, the 78-year-old director of the festival and grandson of the composer, had to announce only a month ago that Willy Decker, director, and Wolfgang Gussmann, designer, have withdrawn from the new *Lohengrin* scheduled for 1999. This means that Mr Wagner now has to find an entirely new production team for an opera that is already cast.

The singers are exciting: John Tomlinson as King Henry; Roland Wagenführer, who has just made his Bayreuth debut as Erik in the *Dutchman*, will sing the title role; Melanie Diener sings Elsa; Jean-Philippe Lafont Telramund and Gabriele Schnaut, who is preparing to sing Brunnhilde here in 2000, will return as Ortrud. Only a year remains until the premiere. When it was suggested that Mr Wagner might undertake the direction himself, fortunately the director himself, fortunately he said he was too busy with other things.

His chief concern is the succession. At present he runs the show, with the help of his younger wife,



The Meistersingers at Bayreuth. The past two years of the Wagnerian festival have seen no new productions

Anne Kirchbach

Gudrun, who is odds-on favourite to hold on to the reins.

Power is vested in a foundation formed in 1973, with representatives of the federal, state and local governments, as well as of the Society of Friends of Bayreuth, and the "entitled members of the Wagner family" - Mr Wagner's sisters and his brother's children. Excluding, you can't help but notice, his own son, Gottfried, who this year lobbied a bombshell into the Bayreuth fest-

apologia called *He Who Does Not Howl with the Wolf* (Sanctuary Music Library). "Uncle Wolf" was the Wagner family's pet name for Hitler. Gottfried, who was born in 1947, believes that the family, especially his grandmother Winifred, has never sufficiently acknowledged the link between Wagner's work, its celebration and anti-Semitism.

The younger Mr Wagner spoils his own case because it is clear that his special pleading has much to do with his father's rejection of him and his

lack of standing in the festival. He is conspicuously absent, too, from the list of speakers for a conference taking place at Bayreuth from 6 to 11 August on the subject "Wagner and the Jews".

Covered by academics from the universities of Bayreuth, Tel Aviv and Heidelberg, it will feature talks such as Professor Saul Friedlander on "Bayreuth and Redemptive Anti-Semitism", Professor Peter Gay on "Wagner from a Psychoanalytic Perspective", Joseph Horowitz speak-

ing on "Wagner and the American Jew - A Personal Reflection", Dina Porat on "The Impact of Wagner's Concepts on the Nazi Movement" and Na'ama Shefi on "Wagner in Israel: from the Ban to the Creation of a Symbol, 1938-1997".

A power gap is beginning to manifest itself. There will be no *Ring* in 1999, only the new *Lohengrin*, if it gets off the ground, plus revivals of the *Dutchman*, Heiner Müller's fine *Tristan* and Mr Wagner's own, un-

remarkable productions of the *Meistersingers* and *Parsifal*. A new *Ring* is scheduled for 2000, to be directed by Jürgen Fimm, the director of the Thalia Theatre in Hamburg, with Erich Wonder as designer and Giuseppe Sinopoli conducting.

The present *Ring* cycle is under-directed by Alfred Kirchner and hideously designed and costumed by Rosalie, though the *Rheingold* I saw again this week seemed a little less silly than at its first night in 1994. If Bayreuth does not have the world's best *Ring*, what's the place for it?

Mr Wagner's credo, as expressed in his foreword to this year's programme, in its rejection of most of what happens on today's progressive opera stages, rules out real reform.

"The culture represented by the festival has nothing in common with the now widespread insatiable craving for sensational but ultimately ephemeral events; they are, indeed, diametrical opposites," he writes. "Anyone merely seeking 'sensations' of this sort should steer clear of Bayreuth."

"Unwilling, as ever, to conform to the trend for modish, commercialised superficiality, or to resort to the display of glitter and tinsel as practised by certain other international festivals, our festival has come in for repeated criticism from the media, but nonetheless it continues to enjoy enormous and undiminished support from an international audience. It is surely obvious enough whom we perform for and why."

That part of the ghost of Mr Wagner's grandfather who supported the revolution of 1848 is doubtless whirling in his grave at these words. But he may have found something to praise in the director Dieter Dorn's and designer Jürgen Rose's *Flying Dutchman*.

Under the conductor Peter Schneider the Bayreuth orchestra sounds its stormy, steamy best, yet with real sweetness for Senta's and the Dutchman's tender moments. Cheryl Studer sings a mighty but gentle Senta, with a marvellous timbre that it is easy to believe is the voice of a very young woman. The title role was a triumphant debut for another American singer, Alan Titus, who is taking over the role of Wotan from John Tomlinson in 2000.

But the real meat of this production is Jürgen Rose's sets. Surely inspired by Chagall, in the second act Mr Rose has built a bright yellow room with a pitched ceiling from which dangles a single light bulb. The spinning chorus takes place here, but when the lovers, transported by their own emotions, step out of the room, it takes off and revolves through 360 degrees, with the light bulb magically still at a right angle to the floor, and the Dutchman's hat remaining on the seat of the chair, even when upside down.

Mr Wagner's own production of *Meistersingers* has a similar white room in Act 3. But all it does is make you realise what a rag-bag of styles, scenery and costumes he has resorted to for this staging. There is simply no unity of style or concept. Daniel Barenboim conducted with his usual force and elegance - which made the scattered booing at his curtain-call impossible to understand.

The view from the cheap seats

Louise Levene on the ballet supporters who never miss a fixture

BALLET is for toffs. We all know this. It's in the papers. Journalists (even house-trained ones) are forever bewailing the elitist nature of ballet, blaming either high ticket prices or management snobbery. There aren't enough ordinary people, they cry.

But the thing we must remember is that journalists always sit in the stalls. There they crouch, clutching complimentary tickets costing £55 surrounded by Chanel and Savile Row and imagining the whole house to be as rich and famous as the people around them.

Meanwhile, in another part of the theatre, ladies in print frocks and dourish men in beige are lavishing their entire disposable income on the art form they love.

London's balletomanes have been starved of full-length classical ballet for six months and they were all out in force at the Coliseum for the Royal Ballet's four-week summer season which ended last Saturday.

You can't even see the balcony audience from the stalls but you know they're there from the different applause patterns. Sometimes it's intelligent (when they applaud a good step), sometimes it's fanatical (when they cheer a favourite) but it's often out of phase with the response downstairs. As a rule it's the larger personalities that get the biggest

cheers - when you're that far from the stage you appreciate a performer who can really project to the back of the gallery.

It's a few years since I saw ballet from the gods so last Saturday afternoon I went undercover through the cultural apartheid of the tradesman's entrance and up the hard concrete stairway to the top of the London Coliseum. I take all the usual precautions: loose clothing, bottled water, large Spanish fan, oxygen tank. The last time I sat in the amphitheatre at Covent Garden I passed out from the heat.

The last time I sat in the amphitheatre at Covent Garden, I passed out from the heat

I ask an usher if they've had many casualties this season but apparently the appalling weather has kept the temperatures down. In any case, the real threat to health is not up in the balcony but down in the thickly carpeted dress and upper circles where the low ceiling of the overhang and the overpowering smell of Coco keep the stretcher bearers of St John's Ambulance Brigade in business.

The balcony's high ceiling and the fresh air wafting in from the back may give it the edge healthwise but the stage is 60 metres away. Rent opera glasses in Paris and they'll give you a decent pair in return for a deposit. London theatregoers put up with useless plastic toys that probably



Do you come here often? Viviana Durante and Irek Mukhamedov in 'Manon' Laurie Lewis

cost less than 20p to make and which render the action fractionally closer and decidedly fuzzier. Seasoned punters have learned that investment in some high-powered German lenses can give you a ring-side view from the cheap seats.

Binocular ownership is an early symptom of balletomania and makes it easy for me to identify fellow sufferers. "Do you come here often?" You bet they do. All the people I spoke to seemed to have seen all the different casts in each ballet this season - some admitted to catching every single performance.

These may be the cheap seats (£12.50 for the back of the balcony) but it all adds up. What they save on couture (and dentistry in some cases) they spend on ballet. They applaud in all the right places and cheer enthusiastically but probe more closely and they are not as uncritical as they seem. Like Newcastle United supporters, they know their team isn't really world class at the

moment but they go on rooting for them anyway. And woe betide anyone who says a bad word about the Royal Ballet in print. Critics are clearly the scum of the earth and this is no place to sport a shorthand notebook unless you want to be lynched. Try to act natural.

Far below us Darcie Russell is dancing *Manon*. She's dancing well - particularly considering that Igor Zelenyusky doesn't look confident with the steps and almost drops her in the courtyard *pas de deux*.

In the interval I slide up to a punter. He is unconvinced by Russell's *Manon*. Did he see Guillem last night? Yes and the Saturday before that and the Thursday before that. We enthuse together about her reckless magnificence. "She doesn't play *Manon*. She is *Manon*." "Are you coming tonight?" "You bet. Viv and Irek."

Viviana Durante who has often danced extra performances when Russell has been injured is very

much admired both for her dancing and her hard work. Mukhamedov is also adored. Every flash of those Byzantine eyes beams right up to the back row and the fans value his intensity and commitment.

The Russell-Zelenyusky performance warms up considerably in the big set pieces and the tragic finale works well - particularly up here where the acoustics is at its best. They cheer long and loud. As we file off I buttonhole a man sporting top-of-the-range laser-sighted field glasses. He looks like a slightly camp racing tipster. Did he enjoy *Manon*?

"She's a lovely dancer, very expressive dancer but it's not her role". Perhaps he prefers Guillem? "Ooh no. Leaves me cold. There's nothing there."

And what about Russell's Russian partner? "I remember Anthony Dowell in the role of course. Zelenyusky's only got two expressions: confused and very confused."

And they say critics are cruel.

Middle-aged but still wicked

FOR THE duration of Run DMC's set, a clutch of tiny children, presumably Run DMC offspring, jiggled up and down excitedly at the back of the stage. And so they might, because right now they must be the coolest kids in their class.

Since Jason Nevins' remix of "My Adidas", the track that put Run DMC at No 1 in the charts for seven weeks, the legendary rap outfit have resumed their esteemed position at the forefront of hip-hop. They have also doubled their profits with a whole new following, mostly young, ultra-trendy clubbers trying to discover what this new-fangled "old skool" sound is all about.

In 1983 this rap triumvirate from Brooklyn prompted a new direction in hip-hop governed by two turntables and a microphone. But sales started to dwindle in the mid-Eighties as their innocuous brand of rap was usurped by their more controversial counterparts Public Enemy and gangsta rappers Snoop Doggy Dog and Tupac Shakur.

Yet despite this fluctuating career, Run DMC still sound remarkably contemporary and, when you consider that their eponymous debut album was released at the same time as, say, Duran Duran's dreadful "Wild Boys", this is no mean feat.

Dressed in traditional hip-hop attire - Adidas shirt, black hat and shades - Jam Master Jay pranced on to the stage, shouting "If you know about old skool hip-hop, make some noise". His cohorts "Reverend" Run and DMC followed behind, DMC bawling his trainers aloft for their famous homage to their sponsors, "My Adidas".

This is an interactive concert with every movement of the crowd directed by the rappers. "Whenever I say Jam Master, you shout Jay," shouts DMC. "When I shout 'What you gonna do?' You shout 'Oooooo' and point your finger at Jam Master Jay." After a while it got a little complex and I began to feel like a toddler learning the art of conversation.

POP
RUN DMC
THE FORUM
LONDON

Run DMC are obviously in a quandary over the Nevins single. As DJ Run inquires "how many knew DMC before Jason Nevins?" it is clear that the track fails to meet their exacting, old-skool standards and a significant proportion of the crowd stare ashamedly at their feet. But



Run DMC: Back to life

they are soon let off the hook as, to roars of delight, they launch into their own version of the single from 1983. Clearly not averse to their 1986 collaboration with Aerosmith they also do show-stopping performances of "Walk This Way" after which DMC pulls off his Adidas T-shirt, signs it and tosses it into the crowd.

For all their hip-hop hyperbole, Run DMC pull off a suitably riotous performance without an inkling of the menace or politicised egotism of their cliché-ridden imitators, and prove that even when approaching middle-age, hip-hop is still a force to be reckoned with.

FIONA STURGES

JP Miss 1:50

rian
By Paul Levy

Monsters on Broadway

New York has taken the blockbuster route to putting bums on seats. But size isn't everything. By David Benedict

Whether you're a lowly tourist or one of New York's finest, the dramatic question that dwarfs everything that Broadway has to offer is how come we didn't know that detestable Oscar Hammerstein's pardon, if Monica had washed that man (or rather, that dress) right out of her hair, Bill Clinton might not have had to face his spot of bother.

The other (possibly interrelated) question in the minds of theatre-goers is "does size matter?" According to *Godzilla* it does, but look what happened to that. Such box-office horrors aside, somewhere along the line Broadway got big. Very.

Disney - not exactly an organisation which subscribes to the "small is beautiful" principle - muscled in on the theatrical action with *Beauty and the Beast*. Four years and counting it has been done, sorry, restaged worldwide, but in *Manhattan* it's now strictly for slow-off-the-starting-blocks out-of-towners.

Sophisticated audiences are much more interested in Disney's follow-up. Julie Taymor's vividly theatrical reimagining of *The Lion King* is a critical and box-office bonanza. Six Tony awards later, tickets are, shall we say, a little hard to come by. Bearing this in mind, a friend pitched up to the box-office last week and requested four tickets for 21 November. "Which year?" came the reply. My friend can have any seat she likes in 2000, there's even availability in 1999, but don't even think about this year.

It's a similar story with the season's other monster hit, *Ragtime*. Even the press office couldn't rustle anything up for me. I was forced to wrangle a ticket via someone who knows someone who... *Ragtime* received the kind of notices politely described as ecstatic. Following E.L. Doctorow's novel and the not altogether dissimilar *Show Boat* (1927) it dares to look race in the face, charting the three strands of the population at the turn of the century who made America: comfortable whites, oppressed blacks and struggling immigrants.

The seriousness of the creators' intent allied to the frankness of the show's populism - it's a musical, don't forget - across such a broad social canvas has won praise and awards from all quarters. Yet even to one who hasn't read the novel, Terrence McNally's text feels schematic and the production over-literal. But it works. Like Eugene Lee's rather unimaginative but efficient sets, the dovetailing of the plots is superbly engineered and Stephen Flaherty's music floods the action, rising to hugely emotional and highly dramatic climaxes. Londoners will see



Alan Arkin has written a dark fantasy in *Power Plays*

comes down, the audience stands up. It's that simple, and that meaningless. Why? We're back with scale. And cost. Americans arriving in dollar-denominated London practically burst with glee when faced with London ticket prices. Brits, meanwhile, stand open-mouthed when faced with a \$40 minimum for a Broadway show. Bearing in mind that compared with the West End, most Broadway houses resemble aircraft-bangers with added chandeliers, you won't want the cheap seats so you stomp up for top whack, which turns out to be \$75. That's \$50 to you and me.

It's tough on tourists. Imagine you've shelled out for a little old-fashioned spacious elegance by choosing the newly-restored Warwick Hotel. You're in walking distance of Broadway but can you afford to see anything? And what percentage of New York's indigent population can afford this outlay? For those who can, the amount involved has a peculiar knock-on effect. If punters have paid \$150 for a pair of seats (plus transport

and a sitter for the children) God forbid they might miss something or don't enjoy themselves. Consequently, nervous producers go for the big sell. Subtlety and understatement vanish beneath the need to underline gags or drive home sentiment.

On the other side of the footlights, audiences want value for money. Consequently they are determined to prove to themselves that their money has been spent wisely. This accounts for the - to British ears - extraordinary amount of mutterings of approval at key points which suggests the acceptance of dramatic spoon-feeding and/or an appreciation of the hudget, as opposed to being drawn in to the drama. Hence the ovation phenomenon.

There was plenty of leaping out of seats at the end of *Twelfth Night* at Lincoln Centre. Were I a design correspondent, I too would have been on my feet. Bob Crowley has headed Feste's song "And the rain it raineth every day". He's developed his glorious rain-soaked set for the disgracefully underrated *The Prince of Play* at the National, relocated it to India, built vanishing-vista walkways over exquisitely lit pools, saturated it luminous blues and silken purples and created one of the most ravishing sets I've ever seen.

Director Nicholas Rytzel is out to enchant and the rhythm and tone of his production are all of a piece but few of his starry actors can meet it. The best performances are Brian Murray's boisterously characterised Toby Belch and Max Wright's dishevelled dandy of an Aguecheek, but nearly everyone else plays one note throughout. Bizarrely, as Viola, Helen Hunt's sincerity (so powerful in the otherwise bogus *As Good As It Gets*) is her downfall. It comes across as earnest, and her almost uninflected delivery robs the text of light and shade, while Kyra Sedgwick plays Olivia's entire journey within a single scene leaving her with nothing to do but overplay her hand.

At first sight, *A New Brain* at Lincoln Centre's smaller venue looks like it too might be a case of overstatement. What chance an autobiographical musical about a composer struck down with a brain tumour? In fact William Finn's intimate show succeeds through its unexpected comic tone and smart line in bathos. A little of that would have done wonders for Bob Fosse's half-brilliant, half-horribly portentous *All That Jazz* which followed a similar path detailing Fosse's own heart attack.

Graciela Daniele's crisp direction and choreography makes up for her uneven musical staging in *Ragtime* and the classically performed show has rare and genuine charm. Finn's genial score bounces through doo-



Kyra Sedgwick and Rick Steen make a splash in *Twelfth Night* in New York

Ken Howard

wop and Motown to late-night piano displaying a flowing instinct for word-setting and frames thoughts about life and death, art and love with aplomb. It isn't Dostoevsky, but that's good news, at least for Miss Riverton, who thinks he's the same guy as Stalin when confronted by her boss in the first of the delicious trilogy which is *Power Plays*. Two of these are written by Elaine May and the third is by Alan Arkin. Both writers also appear in them alongside their offspring - May's daughter Jeannie Berlin and Arkin's son Anthony - both of whom

have inherited their parent's gifts. It sounds horribly incestuous but in fact it's a feast of comic writing with blissful performances all round. If Arkin's play - a dark, increasingly surreal fantasy about two working men - had the name David Mamet on it everyone would pay it serious attention. As it is, this hit production shows no sign of flagging, if only because of May's return to Broadway. Long before Eddie Izzard was even born (1960 to be precise) she made her name improvising comic masterpieces alongside Mike Nichols

- yes, that Mike Nichols, the film director of everything from *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?* to *Primary Colors*, which he and May co-wrote. Watching all four in the helplessly funny dental farce at the close of the evening proves that if size is important, I'll have it small and perfectly formed, thank you.

Ragtime, Ford Centre for the Performing Arts (001-212-307 4450); *Twelfth Night* & *A New Brain*, Lincoln Centre (001-212-239 6200); *Power Plays*, (001-212-580 1313)

Two bitter boys

THEATRE

NO WAY TO TREAT A LADY
ARTS THEATRE, LONDON

NO WAY TO Treat a Lady is not so much a "boy meets girl" story as a "mother's boy meets mother's boy" one. Based on the same ovet that gave rise to the hilarious 1967 Rod Steiger movie, Douglas J Cohen's nifty off-Broadway musical focuses on two very different New York guys with extremely complementary fixations - at least one of whom winds up with alter ego over his face.

Played with campily butch flamboyance by Tim Flavin, Kit Gill is the son of a recently deceased great actress whose scorn for his talents continues to haunt him. Unable to appease her ghost on the legitimate stage, he turns into a multiple stranger who specialises in devious impersonation and who thirsts to hit the headlines.

With this in mind, he makes a telephone confidant of reluctant, upright, Morris Brummell (Paul Bown), the detective put his case. Having the kind of relentless Jewish mother (Joan Savage) who would make Chinese water torture seem like hydro-therapy "I have a feeling you don't refrigerate your perishables, Morris" she kvetches. Morris knows all about the craving for emancipation and recognition.

Proficient rather than inspired, Cohen's score lends Kit comically bad-taste music to murder by (a la Sweeney Todd) - from the maudlin Irish lilt ("Only a Heart Beat Away") in the scene where, posing as a priest, he gives a widow tea, sympathy and a throbbing, to the clash of Latin tempos and temperaments when he poses as a dance instructor and has to battle against the animal vigour of Carmella Todd.

The show is also a hit-sub-Sondheimian in its nagging melodies and jarring rhyme schemes and the way it dramatises that sense of entitlement in Americans that is found both in the defiant, high-stepping self-assertion of the American musical and in the criminal aggression of thwarted no-hopers.

Neil Marcus's production needs more edge and the multi-purpose set of shiny panels is ugly. The cast, though, are attractively game, especially Donna McKechnie, who has a convulsive, vividly enjoyable identity crisis as a gallery of female cameos. On the whole, *No Way to Treat a Lady* is a pretty pleasurable way of treating an audience.

No Way to Treat a Lady, Arts Theatre (0171 836 2132). A version of this review appeared in some editions of yesterday's paper.

PAUL TAYLOR

Class warfare of a man on the make

ON THE FRINGE

DOMINIC CAVENTISH

USUALLY IT'S easy enough to shrug off fibes about the Fringe, to rebuff those plying looks suggesting that anyone regularly venturing into the primitive world of pub theatre must be more masochist than aesthete. But there are times when the sceptics seem to have the upper hand. How on earth do you justify a night out that involves sitting in a chair fixed at a right angle to the action, straining to watch the adaptation of a novel set in 1947 that was written in 1957, made into a film a year later and subsequently rebroadcast as a Seven-

ties TV show? Staging John Braine's *Room at the Top* this late in the century isn't necessarily an exercise in cultural necrophilia, however dead the seating arrangement of the King's Head. The taboos confronted by Braine's sexually adventurous central character, Joe Lampton, as he tries to break through the class barrier, may seem remote but they are not out of sight.

The 25-year-old town-hall accountant risks antagonising the denizens of Warley, Yorkshire for trying to "run two married actresses 10 years his senior, and Susan Brown, the daughter of the town's most prominent industrialist. Dal-lances of this nature may be unlikely to earn overt disapproval nowadays, but there is that but-rutting mentality does not still persist.

Above all, Lampton himself speaks beyond the post-war

years: he is the archetypal man on the make, who puts material advantage before true romance and has to live with the consequences. That he is a rather obvious actor is underlined by the fact that he meets his lovers through the local dramatic society.

However, rather like something put on by the Warley Theatians, Roy Marsden's production of Andrew Taylor's episodic version lacks the vim to bring out the dramatic conflict that sustains this story's relevance. Above all, it lacks sexual chemistry, a vital factor in persuading us that Joe Lampton is driven as much by redeeming, if transgressive, desire as he is by plain greed - and that he is ultimately riven by denied emotion. This is not entirely the fault of the cast. Simon Lenagan lends the lady-magnet Joe a rough insouciance and Tara Moran's Susan is a suitably doe-eyed innocent thirsty for experience. In these explicit times, it is hard to locate an authentically risqué level of suggestiveness (Joe's sauciest proposition is, sadly, a feel of his "fine piece of china"). But Marsden has opted for a too-cautious hedonism - there simply is not enough illicit thrill to bear the clichéd burden of exchanges such as "You beautiful uncomplicated brute". "Not really, I'm just a crazy, mixed-up kid."

That said, in some areas the play doesn't compare too unfavourably to the film, which starred Simone Signoret and Laurence Harvey particularly the accents (not nearly as RP). And though the King's Head stage can offer only a grimy backdrop rather than grim exterior shots, a sense of dowdy community is ably suggested by the ancillary characters, particularly Jonathan Sims' cadish Jack, and Raymond Sawyer's bureaucrat, Mr Hoylake. "This is a bit like Chekhov, sitting round the samovar, talking about life," the latter confides to Joe. Well, not quite.

There is a lot of standing around, listening, in *Room at the Top*, a first play by Dominic Wallis, although in its setting - a god-forsaken NY bar - and its predilection for long monologues, it is more reminiscent of *The Iceman Cometh* than of *Uncle Vanya*. Possibly the longest establishing scene in history - an interminable audit by the manic bartender Leo (Mark Benson) - gives way to a ho-hum comedy in which malcontents whine away, heedless of water flooding the basement and imperiling their lives. The cast impressively run the gamut of barfly reactions and lean the dialogue comic credibility. A kind of sitcom in search of gags - "Cheerless" if you will - it none the less marks Scooting Owl theatre company as one to watch.

Room at the Top, King's Head, N1 (0171-2261916); *Room at the Top*, EC1 (0171-837 7816)

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Throw them a rope - for medical cover, it often costs little to include your children

Marc Hill/Aspe

When insurance can be child's play

They may have left home, but you can still provide protection for your children's activities through your own policies. By Rachel Fixsen

DISASTERS CAN happen whether you've paid your insurance premiums or not. But, financially at least, insurance can save you from the worst consequences of catastrophes. And while you are still supporting children, their mishaps could be yours, too.

Do they need to be covered by your insurance? Whether you take out private medical insurance often depends on your policies. But if you do opt for PMI, adding children to the policy is often only a minor extra expense. Children are far less likely to require costly medical attention than adults, so premiums are only a fraction of adult rates. "You can sometimes automatically have your children included, which can be useful if it is at no extra cost," says Philippa Gee, of Gee & Company. However, if it is free to include children,

you should look closely at the policy and compare it with its competitors to see if this "perk" is actually built into the price, she says.

More than 6 million people in the UK now have PMI, according to figures from the Association of British Insurers. Tales of waiting lists and a lack of confidence in the NHS have boosted interest in private cover. Most PMI policies are sold as job perks; BUPA says 60 per cent of those covered by its medical insurance are on company schemes. It is often possible to upgrade this cover to include your children, even if your employer does not pay for family insurance. PMI policies vary enormously in the level of cover they provide. So-called deluxe plans include dental, optical, maternity and alternative therapy, while budget plans often do not cover out-patient care.

When your children learn to drive, choosing how to insure them can make a vast difference to premiums. If they are still at the stage where they simply drive your car occasionally, you can insure them on your existing policy. But if they have their own cars, they have to be insured separately, and the cost can be huge.

Flying the nest for the first time, students' possessions are sometimes covered under their parents' home contents insurance. This is only the case if the student regularly comes home during vacations, as an insurer would view this as temporary removal of household contents.

However, if the student stayed away on a more permanent basis in a rented flat, for example, he or she may have to take out a separate contents insurance policy. "If they are living away from home it will nor-

mally be part of a lease agreement that they have their own tenants' insurance," says Philippa Gee.

One thing to remember about insurance is that providers play on our fears to sell it. "If you took every type of insurance available, you'd have absolutely no money left at all," says Philip Telford of the Consumers' Association. When deciding what type of insurance you need, check what cover you already have and work down a list of priorities, he says.

Dental insurance, for example, might be low down on the list. "Is it a big disaster if you have to pay for a couple of fillings? Not as much of a disaster as not being able to work a few months," he says. State benefits are diminishing as the role of the state retreats, but you have to be careful not to get sucked into buying every type of insurance.

Put the squeeze on your lender

Your mortgage is a big investment. Andrew Couchman suggests the 10 questions every homebuyer should ask

BUYING a home is one of our largest financial commitments and, for most, only made possible by borrowing money in the form of a mortgage. Here are 10 crucial questions to ask your mortgage provider:

1. Can I get a better deal?
Many lenders offer their best deals only to their new customers. New borrowers enjoy discounts, cash-backs and other promotional deals but as an existing borrower you may get none of these. Most lenders will not tell you if you could advantageously move to a better loan with them, so you will have to ask.
Alternatively, you could switch to another lender altogether. Switching can cost a lot in terms of legal and valuation fees, and any early repayment penalties charged by your existing lender, (especially if your current scheme is at a fixed rate or enjoys a discount) so make sure you understand all the costs involved before considering such a move.

2. What benefits do I get from being an existing customer?
Many lenders and, to be fair, most financial services companies, have been slower than organisations such as supermarkets in recognising the value of existing customers. Embarrass them by asking for a better deal. If they are as customer-focused as they claim, such programmes will become more popular and existing customers should benefit.

3. Can I borrow more in the future?
You may not want a bigger mortgage now but in the future money for a home extension, school fees or even buying a luxury item such as a boat, can often be cheaper by adding to your mortgage rather than through a separate loan.

Some lenders even build in automatic further advance options to their mortgages, but remember that your home is at risk if you cannot afford the repayments.

4. Can I get cheaper household insurance?
Many people automatically insure their home and contents through their mortgage lender's package deal but

you may be able to get cheaper cover elsewhere. Shop around to find the best deals and if your lender makes an administration charge if you switch insurers, ask the new insurer to pay it. Some, including Direct Line, will do so, but always ask.

5. What APR am I paying?
Lenders quote an annualised percentage rate (APR) to help consumers differentiate between various mortgage and loan rates. So, if your lender charges a higher property valuation fee, their effective rate of interest is also higher. A good idea in practice, the APR is both complex and, for many borrowers, meaningless. Instead, look at what you would

Many lenders have been slow to recognise the value of customers. Embarrass them by asking for a better deal

actually pay up front and each month. You may find that the APR quoted in the adverts does not reflect which lender will be cheapest.

6. What is your track record on interest rates?
Unless your lender has recently changed ownership, their track record may give a good indication as to future likely competitiveness. Watch out for lenders who are slow to cut but quick to raise their rates.

7. Do you subscribe to The Mortgage Code?
The Mortgage Code is a voluntary code of practice put together by the Council of Mortgage Lenders (CML) and the Mortgage Code Register of Intermediaries. You can get a copy from the CML on 0171-440 3255. The code lays down agreed practices and standards. If you have a complaint, it tells you what to do about it if your lender will not help.

8. Will my endowment policy still pay off my mortgage?
One in three people pay interest only

to their mortgage lender and take out an endowment life policy to pay back the capital at the end of the mortgage. Declining with-profit bonus rates in recent years may mean that some policies could show a shortfall at maturity. If your lender cannot answer this question, your insurer should be able to.

If there may be a shortfall it could make sense to pay more now each month rather than have an unwanted lump sum to pay off later.

9. Can I switch mortgage repayment method?
Even if you have an endowment policy that may fall short, do not stop it. Most policies have high initial charges, which fall away, leaving lower annual charges. Make no change without getting professional advice first but, if you can afford it, consider switching to a repayment mortgage now, so you start to pay off some capital each month, but still keep your endowment going. When it matures you should not only have enough to pay off the remaining mortgage but a nice cash sum, too.

10. What if I run into financial difficulties?
If the feared economic downturn comes about, or you lose your job, split up with a partner or become ill or disabled, your mortgage payments could be under threat. As soon as that looks likely contact your mortgage lender immediately. Some are more sympathetic than others but most will genuinely try to help. They can set out all the options. Talk to your financial adviser, too. The worst thing you can do is say nothing in the hope that things will get better. Chances are, they won't.

If you want additional protection now, mortgage payment protection may be the answer. This pays your mortgage for up to a year if you become unemployed, or long-term ill or disabled. It typically costs around £7 a month per £100 of mortgage payment protected and can be taken out with your mortgage or added later. Shop around to get the best deal.

Andy Couchman is the publishing editor of 'HealthCare Insurance Report'.

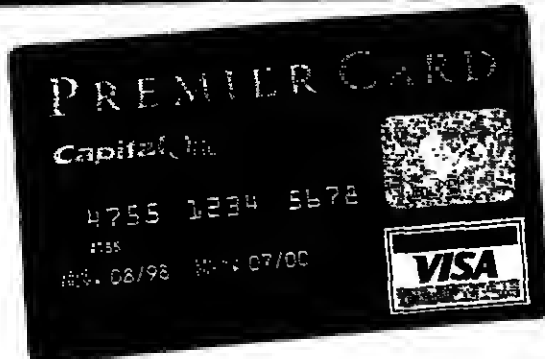
KEEP YOUR OFFSPRING UNDER YOUR WING

- Check if you can add children free of charge to your private medical policy.
- If not, would it be cheaper to switch to a policy that allows children to be added at low charges?
- Check what policies do and do not

- cover when comparing de luxe and budget insurance plans.
- Ask if you can add your children to your car insurance. It is usually much cheaper than if they have to insure a car for their exclusive use.
- Check if students' possessions are

- insured under your home contents policy while they are away at college and come home for vacations.
- Work out your priorities and which risks are already covered before you buy. Otherwise you'll have no money left at all!

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Ernie pays out millions

Raising the prize has boosted premium-bond sales. By Clifford German

ERNIE CREATED his 53rd monthly millionaire this week, which is well short of the 300 or so people who have become millionaires through the National Lottery. But raising the maximum prize in the monthly premium bond draw to the magic million back in April 1994 has helped Ernie compete with Camelot and helped premium bonds become one of the main contributors to National Savings.

The latest Ernie millionaire lives in South Yorkshire, and won the prize with a £500 bond bought back in April 1996. Yorkshire has now provided four winners, but Surrey is still the most successful location, with eight winners. Greater London has won only seven times, (including two in Lambeth, two in Brent, and one in Westminster), ahead of Lancashire, Essex, Wales and the West Midlands, with three winners each. Scotland has produced two winners, as have Kent, Devon, Gloucestershire and County Antrim in Northern Ireland.

This month there were seven prizes of £100,000, 13 of £50,000, 28 of £25,000, 67 of £10,000, 137 of £5,000 and 556,000 smaller prizes, giving an average return of 5 per cent.

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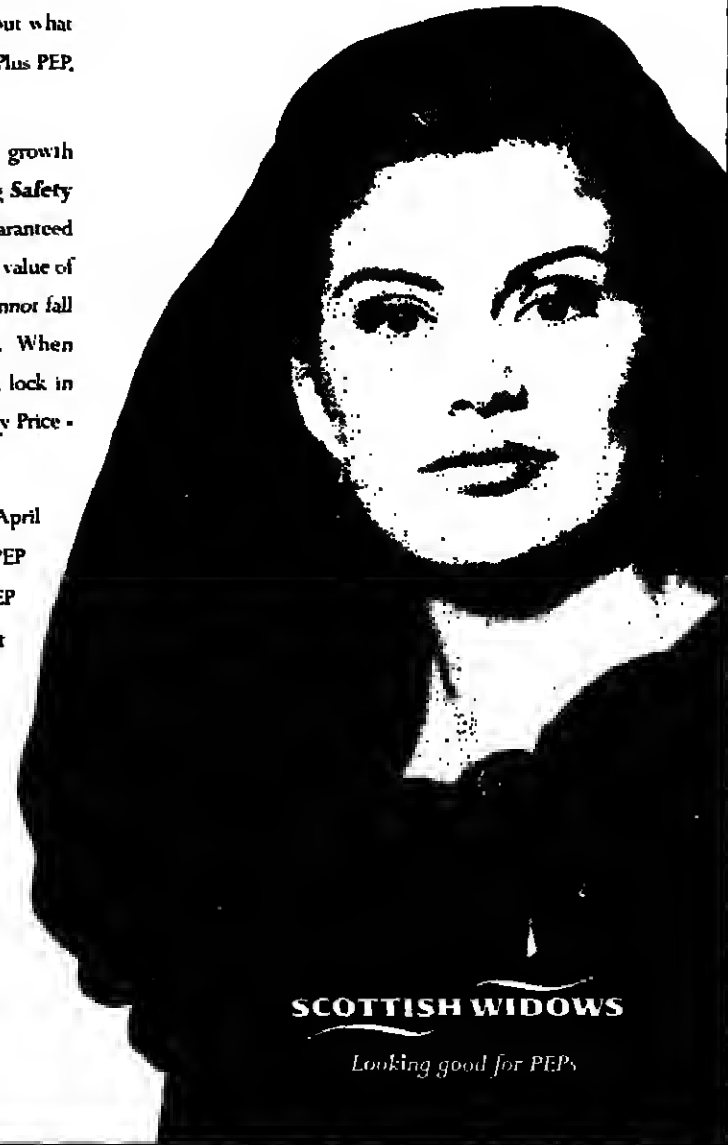


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Bonds are becoming a more popular option for institutions looking for capital. By Paul Gosling

The name's Bond. PFI Bond

Bonds are proving an increasingly attractive option to public bodies raising money through the Private Finance Initiative. But with the integration of Europe's capital markets, there is increasing competition for finance to modernise all of the Continent's ailing public infrastructure, with other governments copying the PFI.

Last month's £91m financing of Greenwich hospital, using 30-year bonds, is just one of several similar deals. Interest rates on the Greenwich project have been held down partly by inflation-linking interest rates, and by a letter of support from the Health Minister Frank Dobson, which has made clear that the Government would not walk away from future problems, even though it does strictly represent a financial guarantee. Seven other recent PFI agreements have involved bond issues, including a Carlisle hospital, the M6 extension in Scotland, and a local authority's waste-to-energy incineration plant.

The emerging view is that while bonds are important to the PFI, they are generally less suitable than bank-brokered loans. "The PFI unit in the NHS is pushing consideration of the bond market, because the term is longer, the pricing is finer, and so the deals are more affordable," suggests Nick Salisbury, director of Barclays Bank's PFI unit. Despite the terms and price advantage of bonds, Mr Salisbury argues that the flexibility offered by bank loans makes them generally a better deal. "If the specification changes, then you may have to go back to your bond investors as soon as you have signed," he warns.

This view is endorsed by Jeff Thornton, head of public sector finance at the Royal Bank of Scotland. "We have seen a slow but steady development of the technology in PFI bonds," he says. "But, because the debt market has responded to the bond market, and offers a more flexible structure and length, we are now in a position where each project can look at either debt or bonds, whichever is best for their project. There is no hard-and-fast rule that debt or bond will always be better. Bonds don't look appropriate, for example, for schools, where they will be drawing small amounts over an extended period of time."

Bonds may, however, be a way of attracting pension funds into PFI investment. Will Hay, head of bonds at Standard Life, remains cautious about investing in PFI bonds, but says that the Government's reduced borrowing requirement means that institutions are looking to replace gilts with new bond issues. "PFI deals will take up the slack, as the Government's finances are so strong," he says. "There is not much in the way of gilt issues coming in the next year, so there will be some demand for bonds, and the PFI will go some way to satisfy that. There are a lot of potential PFI deals out there, maybe as much as £20bn. We will continue to ask, does the yield justify the risk?"



Privatisations throughout Europe may increase the Continent's shareholder culture

David Gould, manager of investment services with the National Association of Pension Funds, says that smaller funds will probably invest only through a PFI venture fund, rather than as direct investors, as the risk attached to PFI deals is still considered too great.

Innisfree operates the main venture capital fund investing in PFI deals, on behalf of its clients Norwich Union, Australian Mutual Provident and Hermes' BT pension fund. It has already taken up several bond issues, but says that high risk projects may be best suited to loans arranged by the banks. "Things will go wrong with some of these

deals," predicts Matthew Webber, the director of Innisfree. "When they do, it is as well to go to a bank to sort out, which they will be able to do. The bond holders are distant institutions which will find it difficult to deal with problems as they arise on very long term projects."

Changes in the European capital market could be an important factor for future PFI bond issues. David Gould suggests that uncertainty over the euro will encourage managers of larger mature funds to reduce their shareholdings, to be replaced by bond investments. Will Hay of Standard Life, though, believes that the opposite may happen.

As more workers across Europe build up pension funds, there will be a greater emphasis in central Europe on share-buying, he believes. This will help to reverse the traditional approach in Germany, in particular, where corporate financing has mostly been achieved by bonds rather than by share issues. The London Stock Exchange points out that privatisation issues in Germany are also helping to develop a wider share culture there.

Jeff Thornton, of the Royal Bank of Scotland, points out that British corporations now, conversely, are beginning to copy German practice, relying on bonds for new capital,

rather than share issues. This indicates, he believes, that the European capital markets are moving together to choose particular investment routes on merit.

Robert Rees, a director of Barclays Capital, which put together the Greenwich bonds issue, believes that we can look at the European capital markets as becoming more integrated. "With the approach of the euro, people are looking further afield," he says. "There are new opportunities elsewhere in Europe for projects financed through the capital markets. The PFI is largely UK, but Portugal is taking it up, and so are Finland, Sweden and eastern

Europe. I think PFI-type deals have to get going in many places, because governments won't be able to afford to finance projects themselves because of the heavy strictures on borrowing from the Central European Bank. That will have some effect, and then all the central European institutions will get involved."

This change will offer, he believes, some strong opportunities for British PFI experts to sell their expertise in new markets.

The bad news for the PFI in the UK, then, is that while the number of potential investors is rising, the competition for the available funds is also increasing.

Britain's new silicon valley

Oxford now rivals Cambridge for new technology

OXFORDSHIRE - WITH Oxford University to the fore - is emerging as one of Britain's fastest growing high-technology regions, according to research from academics at Cambridge and Coventry Universities.

The study shows that Oxfordshire has about 36,400 people employed in 730 hi-tech companies. This compares with 30,000 employees in 1,000 businesses in Cambridgeshire, often regarded as Britain's answer to Silicon Valley in California.

The findings come as Isis Innovation, the university's technology transfer company, launches its latest spin-off, MicroGenics. This company - the third to be spun out of the university since March 1998 - will develop screens for antibiotics to deal with the problem of resistance in infections.

As well as launching companies like MicroGenics and its predecessors, Oxford Asymmetry, Oxford Biosciences (now PowderJect Pharmaceuticals), Oxford Biomedica and Oxford Molecular, Isis Innovation has helped scientists to protect their intellectual property rights and assess their potential for commercial development.

The establishment of the Oxford Science Park three years later attracted to the city the research laboratories of such companies as Sharp and Yamanouchi and the US chemicals company Dow Elanco.

Isis Innovation has also recently launched a programme to maximise the commercial potential of Oxford science. The university will provide an annual grant of £300,000 for five years to cover the expected cost of patents and a development fund of £1m.

Meanwhile, research by Professional Personnel Consultants shows that pay is continuing to rise well above the norm. Hardware and software engineers have seen rises of nearly 7 per cent per annum, information technology specialists by about 10 per cent. Peter Moon, managing director of Professional Personnel, said: "Even with a significant cooling of the economy, it is probable that the present demands will continue well beyond the year 2000."

ROGER TRAPP

Pennies from heaven...

Banks and venture capital companies are OK. But entrepreneurs in need of money should check out the angels. By Karl Moore

SMALL VENTURES are playing an increasingly important role in the UK economy. Research suggests that between 1982 and 1991 firms with less than 20 employees created nearly two and a half million jobs, whereas larger firms actually reduced their number of jobs by a quarter of a million during that period.

David Storey, of Warwick University's Business School, contends that, over the course of a decade, 4 per cent of the businesses which start up will end up producing 50 per cent of the jobs created. A critical issue for these vibrant young firms is finding funding. Once entrepreneurs have exceeded the limit of their own supplies of funds (including those of family and friends), there are three principal external sources of funding available: formal sources such as banks; venture capital companies; and informal investors, often referred to as business angels.

Of these sources, banks and venture capital companies have moved away from providing external finance to entrepreneurs. Most successful start-up ventures find their funds in an area of the economy which is less well known, the business angel sector.

It is important for entrepreneurs to understand the six basic types of business angel because they constitute the most attractive source of funds and critical management help for most entrepreneurs.

Entrepreneur angels: they are the

most active and experienced informal investors and, as a result, represent a particularly appealing source of finance for the first-time entrepreneur.

Key points: entrepreneur angels are individuals who make frequent, large-scale investments in new and growing ventures - they are active and ready to go ahead if you can convince them of the potential of your venture; they are considerably wealthier than other individual angel types; they have been more entre-

vest greater levels of funds than most individual angel investors; they invest predominantly for financial gain.

Income-seeking angels: active individual investors who have made one or two low-level investments over the past three years. Key points: income-seeking angels are well off, but they are not as wealthy as the other angel types; they make their investments both for financial gain and to generate a job

Most successful start-up ventures find their funds in a less well-known area of the economy - the business angel sector

preneurial in their own business careers; though they invest principally for financial gain these angels are also attracted by the fun and satisfaction of making informal investments, and they often interact a great deal with the founders/managers of the organisations they invest in, making them an excellent source of inexpensive management consulting advice.

Corporate angels: these are companies which make angel-type investments.

Key points: corporate angels have corporate resources at their disposal; research shows that they in-

and/or income for themselves.

Latent Angels: they are inactive angels who have made one or more informal investments in the past but who have remained inactive for at least the past three years.

Key points: latent angels are extremely wealthy, self-made private individuals, who have substantial funds available to invest and who are now interested in making informal investments; of all the angel types, latent angels are the most concerned with venture location; they cite the lack of suitable locally based proposals as having restricted their investment activity.

Virgin angels: they are that group of inactive investors who have not yet made an investment in an unquoted venture. Existing American and British research suggests that there are many more virgin angels than active angels.

Key points: virgin angels are private individuals who are looking to provide finance to new or growing businesses, with a view to creating a job or a regular income for themselves and to earn higher returns than those that are available on the stock market; virgin angels are not as wealthy as active business angels and have less funds available to invest; they do not cite this lack of funds as restricting their investment activity, but instead virgin angels point to an absence of suitable investment proposals.

Wealth-maximising angels: this group of active angel investors comprises wealthy private individuals who have made several investments in new and growing ventures. Key point: wealth-maximising angels tend, not surprisingly, to be very wealthy though, without being quite as rich as Entrepreneur Angels, they make their investments primarily for financial gain.

Dr Moore is a fellow in strategy at Templeton College, Oxford University. He and Patrick Coveney are co-authors of 'Business Angels: Securing Start-up Finance', which is published by John Wiley & Sons at £34.95

These days, everybody's talking in huddles

ROY DIDN'T come back to the office for three days after the screen-smashing episode. No one knew where he was, though most of us suspected it was somewhere with lax licensing laws. He certainly didn't show up at the Docklands flat he shares with Sam, who aged 10 years overnight with worry. Frantic calls to Mary, his wife ("but not for much longer") gave us no leads, either.

So, as you can imagine, this did little to lift the mood in our patch of the floor. "Brooding," Laura kept saying. Ominous. Poisonous. Foreboding. When I asked her what she was on about, she just said she was on about trying to find the perfect word to describe the atmosphere. "And have you noticed," she continued, "that people are suddenly all talking in huddles. Look around you. There's not a normal gathering in sight."

Even Jenny the Junior seemed unhappy, which is unusual because usually she just looks bored, as if she thinks everyone around her is mad or stupid. "Well, she could be right, couldn't she?" says Laura, to which I say "No" because neither of us is stupid and I don't think we're mad. "Hmm," says Laura. Anyway, when she came back from fetching our lunch-time sandwiches, she just handed them to us quietly; no sarcastic comments to Neil, no little quips for Laura and me. Not

THE TRADER



that it mattered; none of us had any appetite. The boys in Tokyo, who were working their usual insanely long hours, called in at this point to announce that they were going home. "Any word from Rory?" Jamie asked me, though he sounded as if he already knew what the answer would be. "Oh well," he replied when I told him. "Just another piece to add to the pile of gloomy information out here. Economy wobbling, IBJ downgraded and worst of all, I've got to take Mr Kimoto and his colleagues out for dinner and drinks tonight."

I had to sympathise, having met the man myself on my last trip out east. Not only does he have an insatiable thirst for whisky, his favourite karaoke song is "God Save the Queen", and I don't mean the national anthem. It doesn't bother Mr Kimoto, either, that the backing for the Sex Pistols' classic isn't on any karaoke machine in Tokyo; he happily sings it with

gusto over any old music. Apparently, the last time he did it he was beaten up in the gents afterwards by two drunk, disgruntled English ex-pats. No wonder Jamie was nervous.

I put the phone down more depressed than ever. While I'd been talking to Jamie, several of the big hunchos had been down to sniff around. I've never met any of them before, of course, but they looked so pleased with themselves, they had to be senior managers. I suddenly felt furious with Rory. "Why did he have to do this?" I asked Laura. "If he's having problems with the cheeses, he should stand up to them, not hand them a loaded pistol."

"Talk of the devil," is all Laura replied, and I turned round and there was Rory. "Hello, gang," he said. "What day is it?" As soon as we'd brought him up to date on that score, his secretary Gill rushed over and handed him a stack of messages and memos and he went off to his (now repaired) desk to bring himself up to date on all the other scores as well. That left the rest of us to speculate about what he'd been up to, since we longed to ask him but didn't dare.

Suddenly Rory piped up. "Oh look, boys and girls, it seems I'm back just in time for the monthly strategy meeting. Wish me luck in staying awake. It'll be the most boring afternoon of my life." And off he went.

Handwritten note: 10/11/98

Unhappy at work? Maybe the company's too big

The key to job satisfaction is working in the right size of firm for you. By Kate Hilpern

WHEN YOU join a company, its size is an obvious factor. Has it an international reputation? Is it financially secure enough to ensure decent salaries for its employees? What perks can it offer?

But have you really considered what it might be like, day-to-day, to work in a small, independent company employing a couple of dozen, as opposed to a global corporation, housed in fabulous offices and with a workforce numbering thousands?

According to Umist's latest Institute of Management survey, company size is a major influence on how happy you are in your job. Professor Gary Cooper, from Umist, believes small is beautiful.

"We found that people who work for small companies feel much more loyalty, motivation and, above all, job security," explains Cooper. "Big companies, such as ples and public sector organisations, tend to have much lower morale among their workers." In fact, claims the study, these perceptions contain more than a grain of truth: "Generally speaking, the smaller the organisation, the bigger your role as an individual, and the more you'd be missed if you were absent."

Julie Fisher, a freelance PA, agrees: "When I have worked in small businesses – especially family-run ones – I've found my daily tasks are more multi-skilled and I am therefore far more valuable. But working for companies that have several hundred employees, I have an intrinsic feeling of anonymity. "Sometimes, it doesn't even seem to make much of a difference to my workload or to my colleagues if I am off sick, with the result that I have less motivation about what I am doing when I am there."

But what about opportunities for promotion and pay increases? Surely, the larger the business, the clearer the structure? Not so, claims Cooper. "Our research shows that in a company of fewer than 50 people, employers can see what their employees are delivering and reward them accordingly. In big companies, there may be yearly appraisals, but they are not neces-



Julie Duguy, 42, (above) is PA to the chief executive of Reed Business Information, an organisation that employs over 2,500 staff. She has experience of working in both small and large companies.

ONCE worked for a small company that went under. Not only did I have to live with that fear day in and day out, but I also had to make sacrifices, like not getting paid when I was

ill. It's an experience I'd never want to repeat.

Here, however, there's an in-house nurse, a visiting physiotherapist and a share option scheme – just to name a few of the support systems. If I have any worries about anything, I can make use of the relevant policies without which I think all employees are vulnerable.

I think the main problem of large businesses comes if you're not at the top. Because I am, I

get to see the goals and ambitions and whether they are achieved – but that isn't always the case in a large organisation.

One of the main benefits is that you are less likely to deal with the nitty-gritty. If I need a new PC, I call the IT department, whereas in a small company, I'd probably have to do the research myself. If I need to send the mail, I just drop it in the post room. That means I can get on with what being a PA is all about.

"But if all you can do is go to your manager's father – as the boss – to complain about him, you really haven't got much hope of getting anything done about it."

Dr Paul Taffinder, a chartered psychologist, agrees that size counts for a great deal, but he claims the issue is not always as simple as it appears. "What is critical is the size of the group that one works in, rather than the overall size of the company. That's why many of the biggest companies in the world ensure that individual offices do not exceed certain numbers of staff."

Additionally, he claims, it is crucial to take into account individual personality types when assessing whether small is as beautiful as large. "I know people who have gone from big to small businesses and felt extremely uncomfortable. They like the safety and security of structure, just as they may do in their home or love life, and they just don't want that extra responsibility and control that some people can thrive on in a small business."

Also, there is much less pressure on getting involved in new projects in larger companies, and many people simply don't like change."

The one element of working life that isn't influenced by size, agree experts, is office politics.

Neil Crawford, a psychotherapist and consultant to various organisations, explains: "Office politics is usually a result of competition between employees. People who may have been your friends may now be in direct competition with you, irrespective of how big the company is. That is the nature of all Nineties businesses."

"And, because these feelings are deeply personal, the arguments also tend to be."

So, if there's one thing you can't predict next time you're deciding whether to go for that post in the City or for the local job in the high street, it is those endless rows about who should be answering that phone, who should get the most office space and whose turn it is to buy the sticky buns. This will just have to remain pot luck.

Tunnel at the end of the light

FINALLY, THE interview suit can come out of the wardrobe for another wearing. I'm beginning to wonder if my policy of keeping the one piece of clothing in reserve is so wise: it may remain untainted by the ink and grime of the rat-race, but it's beginning to look a little dated, and it's not like I've got a great deal of wear out of it. Perhaps I should relegate it to workwear and start saving for another one.

Then again, this might be the break I've been waiting for: working as secretary in a team of four in the marketing and publicity department of a leading fiction publisher. If I keep my head down and my standards up, the only way is up. They'll see my value, my initiative. And this time, there's no way that they can turn me down for lack of experience: if there's one thing I can do, it's being a secretary.

Everything seems to be going swimmingly. Margaret, fiftyish, motherly, black-rimmed specs and a strange knit suit, and Rhianon, late twenties, palazzo pants and satin shirt with Mao collar, have talked as though I've got half a brain cell, getting animated by my questions. We've talked about markets and authors and dump bins and jacket design: I've passed my typing test 15 words a minute above the requirement.

Lucy, on the London leg of a publicity tour with a thriller writer, has dropped in to make jokes about writers and their media savvy. "We did a slot on Norwich radio yesterday," she says. "And she forgot to mention the book at all."

I like them, and I think they like me. I allow myself to relax, start having small fantasies about local lunch haunts and meeting people who people talk about at dinner parties. I eye the empty desk by the deep window and start planning the azaena that's going to go on the windowsill.

And then Margaret says: "Well, thank you for coming." "It's been a pleasure," I say, and start to stick my hand out when she continues: "The thing is, we've got something to say – and I'm afraid that



THE TEMP

you're not going to like it."

Boom. Stomach hits knees. "Uh-huh?" I say, and my voice sounds very small, very distant. "The thing is, you're too highly qualified. We were really thinking in terms of someone with A-levels. You've got a degree, and you're bound to have ambitions above the job." "Well, of course I want to progress. But this job seems perfect. It would be so interesting. I'd learn all sorts of stuff." "The thing is," says Rhianon, and her voice is gentle. "We don't want to start interviewing again in six months because you've moved on."

"No," I say. "No. I've been doing any work I could get for two years now, day in, day out, and I've never complained. Surely I've proved that I can be a decent secretary? Can't we...?" I can hear an edge of despair in my voice. "...agree that I'll continue to do this for a year, whatever? I really want this job." And Rhianon shakes her head, though with a genuine-enough look of apology. "You're right. You should be aiming higher up." "I've tried that. I don't have enough experience. Everyone tells me to try further down." "Keep trying," says Margaret. "You'll get there in the end. Honestly."

We shake hands, and they see me to the door. "Good luck," says Margaret. "I'm sorry," says Rhianon. "It's okay. Thank you for seeing me anyway." I say I make my weary way down four flights of stairs, walk through the drizzle to a grand, tree-lined square and sit down on a bench. And, after all this time of keeping my chin up, I finally allow the tears to come.

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JP 11/15/98

NEW FILMS

DR DOLITTLE (PG)

Director: Betty Thomas
Starring: Eddie Murphy, Oliver Platt, Ossie Davis
The idea of Murphy functioning within the confines of a PG certificate may not be promising, but here he shows that his talents are more pliable than they might first have appeared.

Betty Thomas, a director with a deft comic touch, wastes no time dishing up what you have come to see: a suicidal tiger, a sozzled monkey and a pigeon which hopes one day to be mistaken for a bluejay. CW: ABC Baker Street, ABC Tottenham Court Road, Clapham Picture House, Elephant & Castle, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Plaza, Ritzy Cinema, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Fulham Road, Virgin Trocadero, Warner Village West End

MONK DAWSON (18)

Director: Tom Waller
Starring: John Michie, Ben Taylor, Paula Hamilton
You can just about discern the honourable intentions hiding within Monk Dawson. But far better to enjoy the film for the botch-potch of melodrama and sensationalism that it is, rather than the searing social parable it longs to be.

Eddie is a Catholic priest who finds temptation close at hand in his parish. He succumbs, loses his faith, becomes a journalist, and takes to the party circuit.

The conflict of faith and fallibility has been the basis for pertinent character studies before, from I Confess to Lamb, but Monk Dawson's director, Tom Waller, and writer, James Maguire, let too many other ambitions clutter the film, so that everything feels glib.

CW: Odeon Haymarket, Virgin Fulham Road

PSYCHO (15)

Director: Alfred Hitchcock
Starring: Anthony Perkins, Janet Leigh
I envy anyone who will get their first taste of Psycho this week, when it begins a revival in a new print. Imagine not being fluent in Hitchcock's

language of tricks, betrayals and booby-traps. Imagine not knowing whether Janet Leigh will flee with the loot, or escape that menacing traffic cop, or whether it will matter. Imagine seeing the Bates Motel for the very first time. Even better, imagine hearing that name - "Norman Bates" - and it not meaning anything at all: not yet.

Of course, the wonder of Psycho is that you do not really have to imagine - it is all there for you, each time you hear Bernard Herrmann's jabbing, stabbing strings and catch your breath in anticipation of what they promise.

CW: Chelsea Cinema

LOST IN SPACE (PG)

Director: Tom Waller
Starring: William Hurt, Gary Oldman, Matt LeBlanc
In 2058, environmental breakdown has conspired to place the planet in the cosmic coconut sky, but scientist Dr John Robinson (William Hurt) has formulated a risky escape plan, proposing that mankind use stumps to Alpha Prime. He and his family saddle up for the full 10-year trek there to pave the way. However, a stowaway terrorist (Gary Oldman) sabotages the expedition and sends the Robinsons off course.

Lost in Space is an expensive version of the eponymous cult 1960s television series, but the film-makers have remained faithful to the original tone. And the movie looks terrific. Every surface, from door panel to hull, is alluringly spongy; tabletops seem soft enough to sink your fingers into. Rubber, and rubber-effect, is very big: the plates of body armour look like they would protect you from sexually transmitted diseases but not much else; they are almost as alive as the people inside them, or, in the case of William Hurt, more so.

CW: ABC Tottenham Court Road, Elephant & Castle, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Odeon West End, Ritzy Cinema, Screen on Baker Street, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea

Ryan Gilbey

GENERAL RELEASE

BARNEY'S GREAT ADVENTURE (U)

Feature-length exploits for the dinosaur. Ideal for the more undemanding pre-school viewer, but an endurance test for anyone else. CW: UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea, Virgin Trocadero

THE CASTLE (15)

When his family home is threatened with demolition to make way for an airport, truck driver Darryl Kerrigan (Michael Caine) decides to fight back and stand up for his rights. File under quirky Australian blitsh.

CW: Barbican Screen, Empire Leicester Square, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Swiss Cottage, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Fulham Road, Virgin Trocadero

DANCE OF THE WIND (U)

Indian television star Kiti Gidwani plays Pallavi, a singer of Hindustani classical music who dries up on stage following the death of her mother. The delicate music and stately camerawork help build a hypnotic atmosphere but they can't stop it from feeling like a short film dragged out beyond its natural length. CW: Renoir

THE DAYTRIPPERS (15)

Worried that her publisher husband (Stanley Tucci) may be having an affair, Eliza (Hope Davis) confides in her parents, only to find that the family wants to accompany her to confront him. First-time writer-director Greg Mottola charts the tensions of the family car journey with wit and compassion. CW: Barbican Screen, Clapham Picture House, Curzon Mayfair, Odeon Camden Town, Phoenix Cinema, Ritzy Cinema, Virgin Fulham Road, Virgin Haymarket

THE GINGERBREAD MAN (15)

The routine level of so much in The Gingerbread Man disappoints on every front. Odd fragments remind you that here we have a great director marking time. When Robert Duvall's buddies spring him from an asylum in a weird nocturnal dance of silver and purple, we glimpse the fugitive ghost of another, less formulaic sort of film. CW: ABC Shaftesbury Avenue, Notting Hill, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea, Warner Village West End

GODZILLA (PG)

The team which cooked up such blockbusters as StarGate and Independence Day is generally very adept at constructing enjoyable adventures with a B-movie taste for fun. Unfortunately in this tale of a giant lizard rampaging through the streets of New York, their light touch has deserted them. CW: ABC Baker Street, ABC Tottenham Court Road, Clapham Picture House, Elephant & Castle, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Plaza, Ritzy Cinema, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea, Virgin Fulham Road

LA GRANDE ILLUSION (U)

Jean Renoir's 1937 classic has First World War prisoner of war Pierre Fresnay finding he has more in common with his courteous German captor, Erich von Stroheim, than with his proletarian comrades. This is the tenderest of war movies. CW: Screen on the Hill

GREASE (20TH ANNIVERSARY EDITION) (PG)

Twentieth-anniversary reissue of the nostalgic musical. CW: Empire Leicester Square, Virgin Trocadero

HANA-BI (18)

Director-star Kitano picked up the Golden Lion at last year's Venice Film Festival with this violent yet elegiac portrait of a brutal Japanese policeman pushed over the edge by his personal life. CW: ABC Shaftesbury Avenue, Gate Notting Hill, Metro, Richmond Picturehouse, Ritzy Cinema, Screen on the Green

KURT & COURTNEY (15)

Documentary investigating the death of Nirvana's Kurt Cobain and the conspiracy theories which emerged in the wake of the event. CW: ABC Piccadilly, Rio Cinema, Screen on Baker Street

LIFE IS ALL YOU GET (DAS LEBEN IST EINE BAUSTELLE) (18)

An original black comedy about a young, possibly HIV-positive Berlin butcher stumbling through what passes for a love life. CW: ABC Swiss Centre, Curzon Minima

THE LITTLE MERMAID (U)

After years of churning out sub-standard animated features, this sprightly adaptation of Hans Christian Andersen's story - re-released for the summer holidays - began a string of hits for the newly rejuvenated Disney Studios. Pleasantly jazzy holiday fare. CW: Elephant & Castle, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Rio Cinema, Ritzy Cinema, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Trocadero, Warner Village West End

LOVE AND DEATH ON LONG ISLAND (15)

A warm, subtle comedy starring John Hurt as a reclusive widower who becomes obsessed with a young film actor (Jason Priestley). CW: Metro, Curzon Minima, Virgin Haymarket

MAD CITY (15)

Dustin Hoffman plays a reporter who chances upon a hostage situation in a museum, where John Travolta has produced a gun in an effort to get his job back. CW: Virgin Trocadero, Warner Village West End

THE MAGIC SWORD: QUEST FOR CAMELOT (U)

The first full-length product of Warner's new animation division, this Arthurian adventure looks and sounds even cheesier than the average Disney effort. But beneath the surface there's an edge of genuine weirdness that will keep most parents entertained. CW: Clapham Picture House, Hammersmith, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea, Virgin Trocadero, Warner Village West End

THE OBJECT OF MY AFFECTION (15)

Paul Rudd confounds his flatmate Jennifer Aniston's dreams of wedding vows by being gay. CW: Odeon Kensington, Odeon Mezzanine, Virgin Haymarket

PAULIE (U)

Once the muse of indie legend John Cassavetes, Gene Rowlands is now starring with a talking parrot - well, that's showbusiness. Voiced by Jay Mohr (best known over here as Tom Cruise's backstabbing rival agent in Jerry Maguire), Paulie is a wisecracking bird who takes a wry look at human foibles in this likeable kids' film. CW: Plaza, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Fulham Road, Virgin Trocadero, Warner Village West End

SIX DAYS, SEVEN NIGHTS (12)

Action man Harrison Ford here tries to reinvent himself as a romantic lead by playing a boozypilot who crash-lands with a New York magazine editor (Anne Heche) on a remote island. The director, Ivan Reitman, has adopted an old-fashioned approach which stretches to implausible contrivances. With David Schwimmer. CW: Hammersmith, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Mezzanine, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea, Virgin Trocadero, Warner Village West End

THE THIEF (15)

In his investigation into the psyche of a six-year-old Russian boy in the aftermath of the Second World War, writer-director Pavel Chukhrai tries for the unforced poetry pioneered by Louis Malle. Unfortunately, he doesn't quite pull it off. The Thief is a familiar story, told with competence, but it is only the acting, performed with great passion, which makes this film special. CW: Renoir

THE WEDDING SINGER (12)

A shamelessly dumb but very winning comedy which makes the most of its kingly pastiches. A hopelessly romantic wedding singer (Saturday Night Live's Adam Sandler) who falls in love with a waitress (Drew Barrymore), only to discover that she is already engaged to someone else. CW: Odeon Mezzanine, Warner Village West End

THE INDEPENDENT RECOMMENDS

Film Ryan Gilbey



MIKE FIGGIS WAS Hollywood's whipping boy for a while, and perhaps his status as a maverick exile gave him the necessary freedom to make Leaving Las Vegas. Yet his next film, One Night Stand (left), didn't make as much of an impact, which is a pity since this meticulously crafted love story is just as remarkable. Wesley Snipes and Nastassja Kinski tumble into a brief affair, then go their separate ways, each distracted by thoughts of the other. This is a picture informed by great wit, passion and generosity, mature cinema that hasn't forgotten how to take risks.

Arts Centre, Coventry (01203 524524) today 6.30pm, tomorrow 9pm. Those enchanted by Takashi Kitano's excellent Hana-Bi should taste his earlier film, Sonatine, which also investigated the theme of men of violence searching for inner peace. A less accomplished work, certainly, but still one which is marked by its director's formal daring. ICA, London SW1 (0171-930 3647) 7pm, 9pm.

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Classical Duncan Hadfield

JOHN CASKEN'S unassuming but highly individual musical voice continues to shine with every new piece he produces. Casken is Composer in Association with the Northern Sinfonia and that orchestra, conducted by Jean-Bernard Pommeroy, now gives the London premiere of the composer's Mahalhar Dreaming, an orchestral fantasy developing material from his 1989 opera, The Golem. Royal Albert Hall, London SW7 (0171-589 8212) 7.30pm



In the midst of his Beethoven Symphony Cycle, Sir Simon Rattle (right) finds himself on the platform of the Symphony Hall again today, but this time he is not wielding a baton. Instead, the maestro is in conversation with Edward Smith, talking about his last 18 years at the helm of the CSO, and fielding questions both submitted in advance and from the floor. Symphony Hall, Birmingham (0121-212 3333) 6.30pm

Literature Judith Palmer

"IN WHAT WAY would it improve your life if there were, say, a movie star in the room?" enquires Connor McKnight, journalist-hero of Jay McInerney's new novel, Model Behaviour. Despite the aside asides, McInerney (right) knows all-too-well the power of celebrity.

He may satirise the empty postures of New York's beautiful people - the models, actors, designers, and fawning magazine editors - but somehow this chronicle of the "pointless glamour" of the "narcissistic professions" still ends up reading like a rogue issue of Hello! A bit flip and insubstantial, but great on surface detail and big-time name-dropping. As he says: "It's not necessarily whether you win or lose, darling. It's how you look while you're playing the game."

Jay McInerney. Pit Theatre, Barbican, London EC2 (0171-638 8891) 7.45pm



CINEMA

WEST END

ABC BAKER STREET (0171-935 9772) @ Baker Street Dr. Odeon 2.20pm, 4.30pm, 6.30pm, 8.45pm. Godzilla 2.10pm, 5.10pm, 8.05pm

ABC PANTON STREET (0171-439 0631) @ Piccadilly Circus. As Good As It Gets 2pm, 5pm, 8pm. The Big Lebowski 1.15pm, 3.40pm, 6.05pm, 8.30pm. Jackie Brown 1.30pm, 4.00pm, 7.45pm. Live Flesh 1.40pm, 4pm, 6.20pm, 8.40pm

ABC PICCADILLY (0171-337 3561) @ Piccadilly Circus. Kurt & Courtney 1.15pm, 3.40pm, 6.10pm, 8.40pm. Lullaby 2.05pm, 5.05pm, 8pm

ABC SHAFTESBURY AVENUE (0171-838 6279) @ Leicester Square/Tottenham Court Road. The Gingerbread Man 1.15pm, 3.40pm, 6.05pm, 8.30pm. Hana-Bi 1.35pm, 4pm, 6.25pm, 8.50pm

ABC SWISS CENTRE (0171-536 4470) @ Leicester Square/Piccadilly Circus. Deconstructing Harry 1.10pm, 3.20pm, 6.10pm, 8.40pm. Kiss Dr Kill 3.50pm. Life Is All You Get 6.10pm, 8.40pm. Shall We Dance? 3.35pm, 8.30pm. Sting Blade 1.15pm, 5.50pm, 8.30pm. The Taste Of Cherry 1.10pm, 6.10pm

ABC TOTTENHAM COURT ROAD (0171-536 6148) @ Tottenham Court Road. Dr. Dolittle 1pm, 3.05pm, 5.15pm, 7.25pm, 9.40pm. Godzilla 12.20pm, 3.10pm, 6pm, 8.55pm. Lost In Space 1.20pm, 4.00pm, 6.30pm, 9.20pm

BARBICAN SCREEN (0171-382 7000) @ Moorgate/Barbican. The Castle 6.15pm, 8.40pm. The Daytrippers 6.15pm, 8.40pm

CHELSEA CINEMA (0171-351 3742) @ Sloane Square. Playhouse 1.40pm, 4pm, 6.20pm, 8.45pm

CLAPHAM PICTURE HOUSE (0171-498 2242) @ Clapham Common. The Daytrippers 6.45pm, 9pm. Dr. Dolittle 12.45pm, 2.45pm, 4.45pm, 7.15pm, 9.15pm. Godzilla 12.20pm, 3.45pm, 6.30pm, 9.15pm. The Magic Sword: Quest For Camelot 12.30pm, 2.30pm, 4.30pm

CURZON MAYFAIR (0171-369 1720) @ Green Park. The Daytrippers 1.30pm, 4pm, 6.30pm, 8.45pm

ELEPHANT & CASTLE CORONET (0171-703 4968) @ Elephant & Castle Dr. Dolittle 1.30pm, 3.40pm, 6pm, 8.35pm. Godzilla 2.35pm, 5.15pm, 8.05pm. The Little Mermaid 1pm. Lost In Space 1.45pm, 4.40pm, 8.15pm

EMPIRE LEICESTER SQUARE (0171-437 1234) @ Leicester Square. The Castle 2.10pm, 4.15pm, 6.20pm, 9pm. Godzilla 11.20pm, 2.20pm, 5.30pm, 8.40pm. Grease (20th Anniversary Edition) 12.40pm, 3.10pm, 6pm, 9pm

GATE NOTTING HILL (0171-727 4043) @ Notting Hill Gate. Hana-Bi 2.15pm, 4.30pm, 6.45pm, 9pm

HAMMERSMITH VIRGIN (0870-9070718) @ Ravenscourt Park/Hammersmith Dr. Dolittle 12.15pm, 2.20pm, 4.20pm, 6.20pm, 8.30pm. Godzilla 12.30pm, 3pm, 6pm, 9pm. Lost In Space 12.10pm, 3.10pm, 6.10pm, 9.10pm. The Magic Sword: Quest For Camelot 12.30pm, 2pm, 4.15pm. Six Days, Seven Nights 8.20pm, 8.45pm

METRO (0171-437 0757) @ Piccadilly Circus/Leicester Square. Hana-Bi 2pm, 4.15pm, 6.30pm, 8.45pm. Love And Death On Long Island 3pm, 5pm, 7pm, 9pm

CURZON MINEMA

(0171-369 1723) @ Knightsbridge. Life Is All You Get 3pm, 6.50pm. Love And Death On Long Island 5.10pm, 8.50pm

NOTTING HILL CORONET (0171-727 6705) @ Notting Hill Gate. Armageddon 11.20pm. The Gingerbread Man 3pm, 6pm, 8.30pm

ODEON CAMDEN TOWN (0171-315 4229) @ Camden Town. The Daytrippers 12.00pm, 2.30pm, 4.55pm, 7pm, 9.20pm. Dr. Dolittle 12.05pm, 2.20pm, 4.35pm, 6.50pm, 9.15pm. The Gingerbread Man 12.45pm, 3.25pm, 6.10pm, 8.50pm. Godzilla 1.45pm, 5pm, 8.15pm. Lost In Space 12.00pm, 2.55pm, 5.45pm, 8.40pm

ODEON HAYMARKET (0181-315 4212) @ Piccadilly Circus. Monk Dawson 1.15pm, 3.40pm, 6.10pm, 8.45pm

ODEON KENSINGTON (0181-315 4214) @ High Street. Kensington. The Castle 12.20pm, 5pm, 9.50pm. City Of Angels 2.25pm, 7.15pm. Dr. Dolittle 12.35pm, 2.50pm, 5.05pm, 7.20pm, 9.35pm. The Gingerbread Man 3.30pm, 6.15pm, 9pm. Godzilla 11.40pm, 2.50pm, 6pm, 9.10pm. The Little Mermaid 1.25pm. Lost In Space 12.25pm, 3.25pm, 6.25pm, 9.25pm. The Object Of My Affection 4.15pm, 9.20pm. Six Days, Seven Nights 1.50pm, 8.55pm

ODEON MARBLE ARCH (0181-315 4216) @ Marble Arch Dr. Dolittle 11.40am, 1.55pm, 4.15pm, 6.35pm, 8.50pm. The Gingerbread Man 3pm, 3.45pm, 6.30pm, 9.15pm. Godzilla 11.30am, 2.40pm, 5.50pm, 9pm. The Little Mermaid 11.55am, 2pm. Lost In Space 12.30pm, 3.05pm, 6.05pm, 9.05pm. Six Days, Seven Nights 4pm, 6.30pm, 9.15pm

ODEON MEZZANINE (0181-315 4215) @ Leicester Square. The Object Of My Affection 6.15pm, 8.40pm. Screen 2 6.05pm, 8.35pm. Six Days, Seven Nights 6.10pm, 8.30pm. The Wedding Singer 6.40pm, 8.50pm

ODEON SWISS COTTAGE (0181-315 4220) @ Swiss Cottage. The Big Lebowski 1.30pm, 4.30pm, 7.30pm. The Castle 4.50pm, 6.50pm, 9pm. Dr. Dolittle 12.25pm, 2.30pm, 4.35pm, 6.40pm, 8.45pm. The Gingerbread Man 12.20pm, 3pm, 5.45pm, 8.25pm. Godzilla 1.45pm, 5pm, 8.05pm. The Little Mermaid 1pm. Lost In Space 2.10pm, 5.20pm, 8.15pm. The Magic Sword: Quest For Camelot 12.30pm, 2.40pm

ODEON WEST END (0181-315 4221) @ Leicester Square. Lost In Space 12.00pm, 12.45pm, 2.55pm, 3.40pm, 5.40pm, 6.35pm, 9.20pm, 9.40pm

PHOENIX CINEMA

(0171-254 6677) @ East Finchley. The Daytrippers 4.40pm, 6.50pm, 9pm

PLAZA (0171-437 1234) @ Piccadilly Circus. Deep Impact 5.40pm, 8.20pm. Dr. Dolittle 12.30pm, 2.40pm, 4.45pm, 6.50pm, 9pm. Godzilla 1.15pm, 4.20pm, 7.20pm, 9.30pm. The Gingerbread Man 12.40pm, 2.40pm, 4.40pm, 6.40pm, 8.40pm, 10.40pm. Lost In Space 1.20pm, 4.10pm, 6.10pm, 8.10pm, 10.10pm. Six Days, Seven Nights 4.40pm, 6.30pm, 8.40pm

WARNER VILLAGE WEST END

(0171-437 4347) @ Leicester Square. The Big Lebowski 3.50pm, 6.40pm, 9.20pm. City Of Angels 1.40pm, 4.10pm, 6.50pm, 9.30pm. Dr. Dolittle 11.40am, 2.10pm, 4.20pm, 6.35pm, 8.50pm. The Gingerbread Man 12.30pm, 3.30pm, 6pm, 9pm. The Little Mermaid 12.30pm, 2.40pm. Mad City 12.30pm, 3.40pm, 6.30pm, 9.10pm. The Magic Sword: Quest For Camelot 11.50pm, 2.40pm, 4.10pm, 6.15pm. Paulie 11.30am, 1.40pm. Screen 2 8.30pm. Six Days, Seven Nights 4.40pm, 7pm, 9.40pm. Titanic 12.00pm, 4pm, 8pm. The Wedding Singer 1.30pm, 4.05pm, 8.50pm

RITZY CINEMA

(0171-737 2121/733 2222) @ Br. & Br. The Daytrippers 3.25pm, 5.25pm, 7.25pm, 9.25pm. Dr. Dolittle 2.55pm, 5.05pm, 7.10pm, 9.15pm. Godzilla 3pm, 6.15pm, 9pm. Hana-Bi 4.40pm, 7pm, 9.20pm. The Little Mermaid 2.50pm. Lost In Space 3.15pm, 6pm, 8.50pm. TwentyFourSeven 3.25pm

SCREEN ON BAKER STREET

(0171-486 0036) @ Baker Street. Kurt & Courtney 2.40pm, 4.45pm, 6.50pm, 8.55pm. Lost In Space 3.10pm, 5.50pm, 8.30pm

SCREEN ON THE GREEN

(0171-226 3520) @ Angel/Highbury. Islington. Hana-Bi 3.30pm, 6.30pm, 8.50pm

SCREEN ON THE HILL

(0171-435 3366) @ Belisle Park. La Grande Illusion 3pm, 6.25pm, 8.45pm

UCI WHITELEYS

(0171-792 3332) @ Bayswater/Queensway. Barney's Great Adventure 12.00pm, 2.05pm, 4.05pm. The Castle 4.50pm, 7.10pm. City Of Angels 8.10pm. Dr. Dolittle 11.20pm, 12.20pm, 2.30pm, 3.35pm, 5.05pm, 5.45pm, 7.30pm, 8.30pm, 9.40pm. The Gingerbread Man 6.05pm, 8.45pm. Godzilla 11.40am, 2.50pm, 6pm, 9pm. The Little Mermaid 12.05pm. Lost In Space 12.15pm, 2.15pm, 5.15pm, 8.15pm, 8.45pm, 9.15pm. The Magic Sword: Quest For Camelot 12.30pm, 2.40pm, 4.40pm. Paulie 11.55am, 2.20pm. Six Days, Seven Nights 9.30pm. Sliding Doors 7pm

VIRGIN CHELSEA

(0870-9070710) @ Sloane Square/South Kensington. Barney's Great Adventure 12.00pm, 2pm. The Gingerbread Man 7pm, 9.30pm. Godzilla 1.30pm, 5pm, 8.15pm. Lost In Space 12.05pm, 3pm, 6pm, 9.10pm. The Magic Sword: Quest For Camelot 12.15pm, 2.10pm, 4.30pm. Six Days, Seven Nights 1.50pm, 8.55pm

VIRGIN FULHAM ROAD

(0870-9070711) @ South Kensington. The Big Lebowski 1.30pm, 4.30pm, 7.30pm. The Castle 4.50pm, 6.50pm, 9pm. Dr. Dolittle 12.20pm, 2.30pm, 4.35pm, 6.40pm, 8.45pm. The

HARROW
SAFARI CINEMA (0181-426 0303)
Harrow-on-the-Hill/Harrow & Weydon
stone Ghulam 5pm, 8.45pm, 10.30pm, 11.30pm, 1.30pm, 3pm, 4.55pm, 6.55pm, 8.55pm, 10.55pm

WARNER VILLAGE (0181-427 9059)
Harrow-on-the-Hill/Harrow & Weydon
stone Ghulam 5pm, 8.45pm, 10.30pm, 11.30pm, 1.30pm, 3pm, 4.55pm, 6.55pm, 8.55pm, 10.55pm
The Little Mermaid 12.30pm, 2.30pm, 4.30pm, 6.30pm, 8.30pm, 10.30pm
The Gingerbread Man 9.40pm, 11.40pm
The Little Mermaid 12.30pm, 2.30pm, 4.30pm, 6.30pm, 8.30pm, 10.30pm
The Gingerbread Man 9.40pm, 11.40pm
The Little Mermaid 12.30pm, 2.30pm, 4.30pm, 6.30pm, 8.30pm, 10.30pm
The Gingerbread Man 9.40pm, 11.40pm

HOLLOWAY
ODEON (0181-315 4213) Holloway
Road/Archway Barney's Great Adventure 12.15pm, 2.15pm, 4.15pm, 6.15pm, 8.15pm, 10.15pm
The Little Mermaid 12.15pm, 2.15pm, 4.15pm, 6.15pm, 8.15pm, 10.15pm
The Gingerbread Man 9.15pm, 11.15pm
The Little Mermaid 12.15pm, 2.15pm, 4.15pm, 6.15pm, 8.15pm, 10.15pm
The Gingerbread Man 9.15pm, 11.15pm

KINGSTON
ABC OPTIONS (0870-9020409)
BR Kingston Barney's Great Adventure 12.10pm, 2.10pm, 4.10pm, 6.10pm, 8.10pm, 10.10pm
The Little Mermaid 12.10pm, 2.10pm, 4.10pm, 6.10pm, 8.10pm, 10.10pm
The Gingerbread Man 9.10pm, 11.10pm
The Little Mermaid 12.10pm, 2.10pm, 4.10pm, 6.10pm, 8.10pm, 10.10pm
The Gingerbread Man 9.10pm, 11.10pm

MUSWELL HILL
ODEON (0181-315 4217) Highgate
Dr/Dollittle 12.25pm, 2.25pm, 4.25pm, 6.25pm, 8.25pm, 10.25pm
The Little Mermaid 12.25pm, 2.25pm, 4.25pm, 6.25pm, 8.25pm, 10.25pm
The Gingerbread Man 9.25pm, 11.25pm
The Little Mermaid 12.25pm, 2.25pm, 4.25pm, 6.25pm, 8.25pm, 10.25pm
The Gingerbread Man 9.25pm, 11.25pm

PECKHAM
PREMIER (0181-235 3006)
BR Peckham Rye Barney's Great Adventure 11.45am, 2.55pm, 4.55pm, 6.55pm, 8.55pm, 10.55pm
The Little Mermaid 12.10pm, 2.10pm, 4.10pm, 6.10pm, 8.10pm, 10.10pm
The Gingerbread Man 9.10pm, 11.10pm
The Little Mermaid 12.10pm, 2.10pm, 4.10pm, 6.10pm, 8.10pm, 10.10pm
The Gingerbread Man 9.10pm, 11.10pm

PUTNEY
ABC (0870 9020401) BR Putney
ABC Putney Barney's Great Adventure 12.15pm, 2.15pm, 4.15pm, 6.15pm, 8.15pm, 10.15pm
The Little Mermaid 12.15pm, 2.15pm, 4.15pm, 6.15pm, 8.15pm, 10.15pm
The Gingerbread Man 9.15pm, 11.15pm
The Little Mermaid 12.15pm, 2.15pm, 4.15pm, 6.15pm, 8.15pm, 10.15pm
The Gingerbread Man 9.15pm, 11.15pm

RICHMOND
ODEON (0181-315 4218) BR Richmond
Dr/Dollittle 12.40pm, 2.40pm, 4.40pm, 6.40pm, 8.40pm, 10.40pm
The Little Mermaid 12.40pm, 2.40pm, 4.40pm, 6.40pm, 8.40pm, 10.40pm
The Gingerbread Man 9.40pm, 11.40pm
The Little Mermaid 12.40pm, 2.40pm, 4.40pm, 6.40pm, 8.40pm, 10.40pm
The Gingerbread Man 9.40pm, 11.40pm

ODEON STUDIO (0181-315-4218)
BR Richmond Barney's Great Adventure 1pm, 2.50pm, 4.40pm, 6.30pm, 8.20pm, 10.10pm
The Little Mermaid 12.10pm, 2.10pm, 4.10pm, 6.10pm, 8.10pm, 10.10pm
The Gingerbread Man 9.10pm, 11.10pm
The Little Mermaid 12.10pm, 2.10pm, 4.10pm, 6.10pm, 8.10pm, 10.10pm
The Gingerbread Man 9.10pm, 11.10pm

ROMFORD
ABC (0870-9020419) BR Romford
Barney's Great Adventure 12.30pm, 2.30pm, 4.30pm, 6.30pm, 8.30pm, 10.30pm
The Little Mermaid 12.30pm, 2.30pm, 4.30pm, 6.30pm, 8.30pm, 10.30pm
The Gingerbread Man 9.30pm, 11.30pm
The Little Mermaid 12.30pm, 2.30pm, 4.30pm, 6.30pm, 8.30pm, 10.30pm
The Gingerbread Man 9.30pm, 11.30pm

ODEON LIBERTY 2 (01708-720404)
BR Romford Anastasia 10.20am, 12.20pm, 2.20pm, 4.20pm, 6.20pm, 8.20pm, 10.20pm
The Castle 4.50pm, 7pm, 9pm, 11pm
The Little Mermaid 12.20pm, 2.20pm, 4.20pm, 6.20pm, 8.20pm, 10.20pm
The Gingerbread Man 9.20pm, 11.20pm
The Little Mermaid 12.20pm, 2.20pm, 4.20pm, 6.20pm, 8.20pm, 10.20pm
The Gingerbread Man 9.20pm, 11.20pm

SIDCUP
ABC (0541-555131) BR Sidcup
Godzilla 2.10pm, 5.10pm, 8.10pm, 10.10pm
The Little Mermaid 12.10pm, 2.10pm, 4.10pm, 6.10pm, 8.10pm, 10.10pm
The Gingerbread Man 9.10pm, 11.10pm
The Little Mermaid 12.10pm, 2.10pm, 4.10pm, 6.10pm, 8.10pm, 10.10pm
The Gingerbread Man 9.10pm, 11.10pm

STAPLES CORNER
VIRGIN (0870 9070717) BR Cricklewood
Barney's Great Adventure 1pm, 2.45pm, 4.35pm, 6.25pm, 8.15pm, 10.05pm
The Little Mermaid 12.15pm, 2.15pm, 4.15pm, 6.15pm, 8.15pm, 10.15pm
The Gingerbread Man 9.15pm, 11.15pm
The Little Mermaid 12.15pm, 2.15pm, 4.15pm, 6.15pm, 8.15pm, 10.15pm
The Gingerbread Man 9.15pm, 11.15pm

STREATHAM
ABC (0870-9020415) BR Streatham Hill
The Castle 4pm, 6.10pm, 8.35pm, 10.55pm
The Little Mermaid 12.10pm, 2.10pm, 4.10pm, 6.10pm, 8.10pm, 10.10pm
The Gingerbread Man 9.10pm, 11.10pm
The Little Mermaid 12.10pm, 2.10pm, 4.10pm, 6.10pm, 8.10pm, 10.10pm
The Gingerbread Man 9.10pm, 11.10pm

ODEON (0181-315 4219) BR Streatham Hill
Barney's Great Adventure 12.45pm, 2.45pm, 4.45pm, 6.45pm, 8.45pm, 10.45pm
The Little Mermaid 12.45pm, 2.45pm, 4.45pm, 6.45pm, 8.45pm, 10.45pm
The Gingerbread Man 9.45pm, 11.45pm
The Little Mermaid 12.45pm, 2.45pm, 4.45pm, 6.45pm, 8.45pm, 10.45pm
The Gingerbread Man 9.45pm, 11.45pm

NEW STRATFORD
PICTURE HOUSE (555 3366)
BR Stratford East Dr/Dollittle 12.00pm, 1.55pm, 3.50pm, 5.45pm, 7.40pm, 9.35pm
The Little Mermaid 12.00pm, 2.00pm, 4.00pm, 6.00pm, 8.00pm, 10.00pm
The Gingerbread Man 9.00pm, 11.00pm
The Little Mermaid 12.00pm, 2.00pm, 4.00pm, 6.00pm, 8.00pm, 10.00pm
The Gingerbread Man 9.00pm, 11.00pm

Lost In Space 12.30pm, 3.30pm, 6.30pm, 9.15pm, The Magic Sword: Quest For Camelot 1pm, 3pm, 4.50pm

SUTTON
UCI 6 (0950-888990) BR Sutton
Barney's Great Adventure 12.15pm, 2.15pm, 4.15pm, 6.15pm, 8.15pm, 10.15pm
The Little Mermaid 12.15pm, 2.15pm, 4.15pm, 6.15pm, 8.15pm, 10.15pm
The Gingerbread Man 9.15pm, 11.15pm
The Little Mermaid 12.15pm, 2.15pm, 4.15pm, 6.15pm, 8.15pm, 10.15pm
The Gingerbread Man 9.15pm, 11.15pm

TURNPIKE LANE
CORONET (0181-888 2519)
Turnpike Lane Dr/Dollittle 1.30pm, 3.40pm, 5.50pm, 7.55pm, 9.55pm, 11.55pm
The Little Mermaid 12.30pm, 2.30pm, 4.30pm, 6.30pm, 8.30pm, 10.30pm
The Gingerbread Man 9.30pm, 11.30pm
The Little Mermaid 12.30pm, 2.30pm, 4.30pm, 6.30pm, 8.30pm, 10.30pm
The Gingerbread Man 9.30pm, 11.30pm

UXBRIDGE
ODEON (01895-913139) UXBRIDGE
Dr/Dollittle 11.35am, 1.45pm, 4pm, 6.15pm, 8.15pm, 10.15pm
The Little Mermaid 12.35pm, 2.35pm, 4.35pm, 6.35pm, 8.35pm, 10.35pm
The Gingerbread Man 9.35pm, 11.35pm
The Little Mermaid 12.35pm, 2.35pm, 4.35pm, 6.35pm, 8.35pm, 10.35pm
The Gingerbread Man 9.35pm, 11.35pm

WALTHAMSTOW
ABC (0870-9020424) WALTHAMSTOW
Central Barney's Great Adventure 12.35pm, 2.35pm, 4.35pm, 6.35pm, 8.35pm, 10.35pm
The Little Mermaid 12.35pm, 2.35pm, 4.35pm, 6.35pm, 8.35pm, 10.35pm
The Gingerbread Man 9.35pm, 11.35pm
The Little Mermaid 12.35pm, 2.35pm, 4.35pm, 6.35pm, 8.35pm, 10.35pm
The Gingerbread Man 9.35pm, 11.35pm

WALTON ON THAMES
THE SCREEN AT WALTON (01932-525825) BR Walton on Thames
Barney's Great Adventure 3.20pm, 5.20pm, 7.20pm, 9.20pm, 11.20pm
The Little Mermaid 12.30pm, 2.30pm, 4.30pm, 6.30pm, 8.30pm, 10.30pm
The Gingerbread Man 9.30pm, 11.30pm
The Little Mermaid 12.30pm, 2.30pm, 4.30pm, 6.30pm, 8.30pm, 10.30pm
The Gingerbread Man 9.30pm, 11.30pm

WELL HALL
CORONET (0181-850 3351) BR Well Hall
Godzilla 2.35pm, 5.15pm, 8.55pm, 10.55pm
The Little Mermaid 12.35pm, 2.35pm, 4.35pm, 6.35pm, 8.35pm, 10.35pm
The Gingerbread Man 9.35pm, 11.35pm
The Little Mermaid 12.35pm, 2.35pm, 4.35pm, 6.35pm, 8.35pm, 10.35pm
The Gingerbread Man 9.35pm, 11.35pm

WILLESDEN
BELLE-VUE (0181-830 0822)
Wilkesden Green Lost In Space 1pm, 4pm, 6.40pm, 9.15pm

WIMBLEDON
ODEON (0181-315 4222) BR Wimbledon
Barney's Great Adventure 11.45am, 1.20pm, 2.55pm, 4.30pm, 6.15pm, 8.00pm, 9.45pm, 11.30pm
The Little Mermaid 12.10pm, 2.10pm, 4.10pm, 6.10pm, 8.10pm, 10.10pm
The Gingerbread Man 9.10pm, 11.10pm
The Little Mermaid 12.10pm, 2.10pm, 4.10pm, 6.10pm, 8.10pm, 10.10pm
The Gingerbread Man 9.10pm, 11.10pm

WOODFORD
ABC (0181-989 3463) BR South Woodford
Barney's Great Adventure 12.10pm, 2.10pm, 4.10pm, 6.10pm, 8.10pm, 10.10pm
The Little Mermaid 12.10pm, 2.10pm, 4.10pm, 6.10pm, 8.10pm, 10.10pm
The Gingerbread Man 9.10pm, 11.10pm
The Little Mermaid 12.10pm, 2.10pm, 4.10pm, 6.10pm, 8.10pm, 10.10pm
The Gingerbread Man 9.10pm, 11.10pm

WOOLWICH
CORONET (0181-854 5043) BR Woolwich Arsenal
Dr/Dollittle 1.30pm, 3.40pm, 5.50pm, 7.55pm, 9.55pm, 11.55pm
The Little Mermaid 12.30pm, 2.30pm, 4.30pm, 6.30pm, 8.30pm, 10.30pm
The Gingerbread Man 9.30pm, 11.30pm
The Little Mermaid 12.30pm, 2.30pm, 4.30pm, 6.30pm, 8.30pm, 10.30pm
The Gingerbread Man 9.30pm, 11.30pm

CINEMA

LONDON
ICA The Mall SW1 (0171-930 3647/930 3647) The Harry Smith
Re-creation: Avant-Garde Animation Live Event (NC) 3pm, 6pm, 8pm, 10pm
New Shorts For Harry (NC) 5pm, 7pm, 9pm, 11pm
NFT South Bank SE1 (0171-633 0274/0171-928 3233) The Railway
Children (U) 2pm, 4pm, 6pm, 8pm, 10pm
Programme 2: Joris Ivens (NC) 6.15pm, 8.15pm, 10.15pm
Shohei Imamura (NC) 6.30pm, 8.30pm, 10.30pm
Lucinda (U) 7.30pm, 9.30pm, 11.30pm
The Insect Woman: Shohei Imamura (NC) 8.40pm

PEPSI IMAX The Trocadero, Piccadilly Circus W1 (0171-494 4153)
Across the Sea of Time - A New York
Adventure (3-D) (U) 11am, 1.05pm, 5.20pm, 9.35pm, 1.55pm, 5.15pm, 9.30pm, 1.55pm, 5.15pm, 9.30pm
The Little Mermaid 12.30pm, 2.30pm, 4.30pm, 6.30pm, 8.30pm, 10.30pm
The Gingerbread Man 9.30pm, 11.30pm
The Little Mermaid 12.30pm, 2.30pm, 4.30pm, 6.30pm, 8.30pm, 10.30pm
The Gingerbread Man 9.30pm, 11.30pm

PRINCE CHARLES Leicester Place WC2 (0171-437 8181) Ponette (15)
1pm, 3pm, 5pm, 7pm, 9pm, 11pm
The Wings Of The Dove (15) 3.30pm, 5.30pm, 7.30pm, 9.30pm, 11.30pm
Dark City (15) 9pm

RIVERSIDE STUDIOS Crisp Road W6 (0181-237 1111/020 0180) La
Grande Illusion (U) 6.30pm, 8.50pm

WATERMANS ARTS CENTRE High Street, Brentford, Middle (0181-568 1170) Guru In Seven (18) 9pm, The
Magic Sword: Quest For Camelot (U) 1pm, 3pm, 5pm, 7pm, 9pm, 11pm
The Gingerbread Man (15) 6.45pm, 8.45pm, 10.45pm
Grease (20th Anniversary Edition) (PG) 4.45pm

BRIGHTON
DUKE OF YORKS (01273-626561) Ponette (15) 9pm, The Tasta Di
Cherry (PG) 7pm, Titanic (12) 3pm

BRISTOL
WATERSHEO (0117-925 3845) The Wind In The Willows (U) 3pm
The Gingerbread Man (15) 6.05pm, 8.25pm, 10.45pm
Sling Blade (15) 8.15pm

CAMBRIDGE
ARTS CINEMA (01223-504444) Deconstructing Harry (18) 1pm, Home
at (18) 3pm, 5.30pm, 7.30pm, 9.30pm
The Tasta Di Cherry (PG) 7pm, Titanic (12) 3pm

NEWQUAY
STELLA SCREEN TOWN NEWQUAY (0870-577 0075) Big Wednesday (PG) film commences
at sundown

NORWICH
CINEMA CITY (01603-622047) Anastasia (U) 2.30pm, Gummo (18) 8.15pm, Junk Mail (15) 5.45pm

THEATRE

WEST END

Ticket availability details are for today, times and prices for the week; running times include intervals. ● - Seats at all prices. ○ - Seats at some prices. ○ - Returns only. Matinees: (1) Sun, (2) Tue, (3) Wed, (4) Thu, (5) Fri, (6) Sat, (7) Sun.

ART Stacy Keach, David Dukes, George Wendt in Yasmina Reza's comedy about art and friendship. Wyndham's Charing Cross Road, WC2 (0171-369 1736/cc 867 1111) ● Leic Sq, Tue-Sat 7.30pm, (4) 3pm, (7) 11pm, (5) 5pm, (6) 7.30pm, (7) 11pm, (8) 5pm, (9) 7.30pm, (10) 11pm, (11) 5pm, (12) 7.30pm, (13) 11pm, (14) 5pm, (15) 7.30pm, (16) 11pm, (17) 5pm, (18) 7.30pm, (19) 11pm, (20) 5pm, (21) 7.30pm, (22) 11pm, (23) 5pm, (24) 7.30pm, (25) 11pm, (26) 5pm, (27) 7.30pm, (28) 11pm, (29) 5pm, (30) 7.30pm, (31) 11pm, (32) 5pm, (33) 7.30pm, (34) 11pm, (35) 5pm, (36) 7.30pm, (37) 11pm, (38) 5pm, (39) 7.30pm, (40) 11pm, (41) 5pm, (42) 7.30pm, (43) 11pm, (44) 5pm, (45) 7.30pm, (46) 11pm, (47) 5pm, (48) 7.30pm, (49) 11pm, (50) 5pm, (51) 7.30pm, (52) 11pm, (53) 5pm, (54) 7.30pm, (55) 11pm, (56) 5pm, (57) 7.30pm, (58) 11pm, (59) 5pm, (60) 7.30pm, (61) 11pm, (62) 5pm, (63) 7.30pm, (64) 11pm, (65) 5pm, (66) 7.30pm, (67) 11pm, (68) 5pm, (69) 7.30pm, (70) 11pm, (71) 5pm, (72) 7.30pm, (73) 11pm, (74) 5pm, (75) 7.30pm, (76) 11pm, (77) 5pm, (78) 7.30pm, (79) 11pm, (80) 5pm, (81) 7.30pm, (82) 11pm, (83) 5pm, (84) 7.30pm, (85) 11pm, (86) 5pm, (87) 7.30pm, (88) 11pm, (89) 5pm, (90) 7.30pm, (91) 11pm, (92) 5pm, (93) 7.30pm, (94) 11pm, (95) 5pm, (96) 7.30pm, (97) 11pm, (98) 5pm, (99) 7.30pm, (100) 11pm, (101) 5pm, (102) 7.30pm, (103) 11pm, (104) 5pm, (105) 7.30pm, (106) 11pm, (107) 5pm, (108) 7.30pm, (109) 11pm, (110) 5pm, (111) 7.30pm, (112) 11pm, (113) 5pm, (114) 7.30pm, (115) 11pm, (116) 5pm, (117) 7.30pm, (118) 11pm, (119) 5pm, (120) 7.30pm, (121) 11pm, (122) 5pm, (123) 7.30pm, (124) 11pm, (125) 5pm, (126) 7.30pm, (127) 11pm, (128) 5pm, (129) 7.30pm, (130) 11pm, (131) 5pm, (132) 7.30pm, (133) 11pm, (134) 5pm, (135) 7.30pm, (136) 11pm, (137) 5pm, (138) 7.30pm, (139) 11pm, (140) 5pm, (141) 7.30pm, (142) 11pm, (143) 5pm, (144) 7.30pm, (145) 11pm, (146) 5pm, (147) 7.30pm, (148) 11pm, (149) 5pm, (150) 7.30pm, (151) 11pm, (152) 5pm, (153) 7.30pm, (154) 11pm, (155) 5pm, (156) 7.30pm, (157) 11pm, (158) 5pm, (159) 7.30pm, (160) 11pm, (161) 5pm, (162) 7.30pm, (163) 11pm, (164) 5pm, (165) 7.30pm, (166) 11pm, (167) 5pm, (168) 7.30pm, (169) 11pm, (170) 5pm, (171) 7.30pm, (172) 11pm, (173) 5pm, (174) 7.30pm, (175) 11pm, (176) 5pm, (177) 7.30pm, (178) 11pm, (179) 5pm, (180) 7.30pm, (181) 11pm, (182) 5pm, (183) 7.30pm, (184) 11pm, (185) 5pm, (186) 7.30pm, (187) 11pm, (188) 5pm, (189) 7.30pm, (190) 11pm, (191) 5pm, (192) 7.30pm, (193) 11pm, (194) 5pm, (195) 7.30pm, (196) 11pm, (197) 5pm, (198) 7.30pm, (199) 11pm, (200) 5pm, (201) 7.30pm, (202) 11pm, (203) 5pm, (204) 7.30pm, (205) 11pm, (206) 5pm, (207) 7.30pm, (208) 11pm, (209) 5pm, (210) 7.30pm, (211) 11pm, (212) 5pm, (213) 7.30pm, (214) 11pm, (215) 5pm, (216) 7.30pm, (217) 11pm, (218) 5pm, (219) 7.30pm, (220) 11pm, (221) 5pm, (222) 7.30pm, (223) 11pm, (224) 5pm, (225) 7.30pm, (226) 11pm, (227) 5pm, (228) 7.30pm, (229) 11pm, (230) 5pm, (231) 7.30pm, (232) 11pm, (233) 5pm, (234) 7.30pm, (235) 11pm, (236) 5pm, (237) 7.30pm, (238) 11pm, (239) 5pm, (240) 7.30pm, (241) 11pm, (242) 5pm, (243) 7.30pm, (244) 11pm, (245) 5pm, (246) 7.30pm, (247) 11pm, (248) 5pm, (249) 7.30pm, (250) 11pm, (251) 5pm, (252) 7.30pm, (253) 11pm, (254) 5pm, (255) 7.30pm, (256) 11pm, (257) 5pm, (258) 7.30pm, (259) 11pm, (260) 5pm, (261) 7.30pm, (262) 11pm, (263) 5pm, (264) 7.30pm, (265) 11pm, (266) 5pm, (267) 7.30pm, (268) 11pm, (269) 5pm, (270) 7.30pm, (271) 11pm, (272) 5pm, (273) 7.30pm, (274) 11pm, (275) 5pm, (276) 7.30pm, (277) 11pm, (278) 5pm, (279) 7.30pm, (280) 11pm, (281) 5pm, (282) 7.30pm, (283) 11pm, (284) 5pm, (285) 7.30pm, (286) 11pm, (287) 5pm, (288) 7.30pm, (289) 11pm, (290) 5pm, (291) 7.30pm, (292) 11pm, (293) 5pm, (294) 7.30pm, (295) 11pm, (296) 5pm, (297) 7.30pm, (298) 11pm, (299) 5pm, (300) 7.30pm, (301) 11pm, (302) 5pm, (303) 7.30pm, (304) 11pm, (305) 5pm, (306) 7.30pm, (307) 11pm, (308) 5pm, (309) 7.30pm, (310) 11pm, (311) 5pm, (312) 7.30pm, (313) 11pm, (314) 5pm, (315) 7.30pm, (316) 11pm, (317) 5pm, (318) 7.30pm, (319) 11pm, (320) 5pm, (321) 7.30pm, (322) 11pm, (323) 5pm, (324) 7.30pm, (325) 11pm, (326) 5pm, (327) 7.30pm, (328) 11pm, (329) 5pm, (330) 7.30pm, (331) 11pm, (332) 5pm, (333) 7.30pm, (334) 11pm, (335) 5pm, (336) 7.30pm, (337) 11pm, (338) 5pm, (339) 7.30pm, (340) 11pm, (341) 5pm, (342) 7.30pm, (343) 11pm, (344) 5pm, (345) 7.30pm, (346) 11pm, (347) 5pm, (348) 7.30pm, (349) 11pm, (350) 5pm, (351) 7.30pm, (352) 11pm, (353) 5pm, (354) 7.30pm, (355) 11pm, (356) 5pm, (357) 7.30pm, (358) 11pm, (359) 5pm, (360) 7.30pm, (361) 11pm, (362) 5pm, (363) 7.30pm, (364) 11pm, (365) 5pm, (366) 7.30pm, (367) 11pm, (368) 5pm, (369) 7.30pm, (370) 11pm, (371) 5pm, (372) 7.30pm, (373) 11pm, (374) 5pm, (375) 7.30pm, (376) 11pm, (377) 5pm, (378) 7.30pm, (379) 11pm, (380) 5pm, (381) 7.30pm, (382) 11pm, (383) 5pm, (384) 7.30pm, (385) 11pm, (38

WEDNESDAY RADIO

RADIO 1
(97.9-99.5MHz FM)
6.30 Chris Moyles. 9.00 Mark Goodier.
11.30 Radio 1 Roadshow. 12.30
Newsbeat. 12.45 Jo Whitey. 2.00
Mark Radcliffe. 4.00 Dave Pearce.
5.30 Steve Lamacq. The Evening
Session. 6.30 Movie Update with
Mark Kermode. 6.40 John Peel.
10.30 Mary Anne Hobbes. 12.00 The
Breakfast. 2.00 Charlie Jordan.
4.00 - 6.30 Clive Warren.

RADIO 2
(88-92MHz FM)
6.00 Sarah Kennedy. 7.30 Wake Up
to Wogan. 9.30 Ken Bruce. 12.00
Jimmy Young. 2.00 Alex Lester. 5.05
John Dunn. 7.00 Cambridge Folk
Festival. 9.00 Alexander O'Neal - the
Celebrity Soul Show. 10.00 Top of
the Pops on 2. 10.30 Richard
Allison. 12.05 Steve Madden. 3.00
- 4.00 Annie O'Brien.

RADIO 3
(92.5-94.5MHz FM)
6.00 On Air.
6.00 Masterworks.
10.30 Proms Artist of the Week.
1.00 Sound Stories.
2.00 Proms Composer of the Week:
Elgar.
1.00 Radio 3 Lunchtime Concert.
2.00 BBC Proms 98. (R)
4.00 Choral Evensong.
5.00 In Tune.
7.30 BBC Proms 98. Favourite pieces
for chamber orchestra are performed
tonight at the Royal Albert Hall in the
shape of Rossini's sparkling overture,
Chopin's characteristically lyrical
concerto, and one of the last three
great symphonies by Mozart.
8.25 The Golem Legend. Rabbi
Julia Neuberger and composer
John Casken - whose Mahler
Dreaming is in the second half of
tonight's Prom - discuss different
interpretations of the Jewish legend
in which a clay effigy is magically
brought to life.
1.45 Concert. Part 2. John Casken:
Mahler Dreaming (first London per-
formance). Mozart: Symphony No 40
in G minor. K550.
9.50 Postscript. Five programmes
this week in which Nicholas Ward-
Jackson explores the contemporary
art world. In the third programme,
he follows Graham Gussin as he
creates a new sound and video
piece in the New Art Space at the
Tate, drawing together the diverse

influences of Edgar Allan Poe and
Kurt Cobain. (R)
10.45 An Obsession with Bach. A
selection of preludes and fugues
played by pianist Glenn Gould,
plus Ysaye's Violin Sonata No 2
(Obsession) played by Frank Peter
Zimmermann.
10.45 The Garden of Earthly Delights.
Louise Buck probes the many mysteries
surrounding the amazing triptych
painted by Hieronymus Bosch 500
years ago. Was his unique vision of
heaven and hell the work of an orthodox
Christian or of a heretic advocating
salvation through sex? Was Bosch the
product of a sick mind? The work has inspired
modern artists, a ballet, a steamy
novel, numerous LP covers and
centuries of learned debate. (R)
11.30 Jazz Notes.
12.00 Proms Composer of the Week:
Handel. (R)
1.00 - 6.00 Through the Night.

PICK OF THE DAY

A DISQUIETING documentary
tonight draws attention to the largely
unrecognised dangers of Hepatitis
C (9pm R1). Once stigmatised as a
gay or junkie's disease, hepatitis C
is now being found in people who
are at no obvious risk and have
no explanation as to how they
have become infected. That's not
surprising in a virus that can live for
weeks outside the human body and
can lurk in your system undetected

for decades - you could have
scratched yourself on a nail 30 years
ago and never known you had
caught the disease. Effects include
cirrhosis and cancer of the liver;
there could be 500 million sufferers
worldwide; and there is no effective
treatment. In Punctures (11.30am
R4), Hugh Dennis tonight investigates
the art of the drag queen, from Old
Mother Riley to Lily Savage.
ROBERT HANKS



influences of Edgar Allan Poe and
Kurt Cobain. (R)
10.45 An Obsession with Bach. A
selection of preludes and fugues
played by pianist Glenn Gould,
plus Ysaye's Violin Sonata No 2
(Obsession) played by Frank Peter
Zimmermann.
10.45 The Garden of Earthly Delights.
Louise Buck probes the many mysteries
surrounding the amazing triptych
painted by Hieronymus Bosch 500
years ago. Was his unique vision of
heaven and hell the work of an orthodox
Christian or of a heretic advocating
salvation through sex? Was Bosch the
product of a sick mind? The work has inspired
modern artists, a ballet, a steamy
novel, numerous LP covers and
centuries of learned debate. (R)
11.30 Jazz Notes.
12.00 Proms Composer of the Week:
Handel. (R)
1.00 - 6.00 Through the Night.

RADIO 4
(92.4-94.5MHz FM)
6.00 Today.
9.00 Mothers and Sons.
9.30 The Vale.
9.45 Cod: a Biography of the Fish
That Changed the World.
10.00 NEWS: Woman's Hour.
11.00 NEWS: Rural Life.
11.30 Punctures. See Pick of
the Day.
12.00 NEWS: You and Yours.
1.30 X Marks the Spot.
2.00 NEWS: The Archers.
2.45 Afternoon Play: Something of
the Night.

3.00 NEWS: Gardeners' Question Time
3.30 A Childhood of Play.
3.45 The Cages.
4.00 NEWS: Four Walls.
4.30 Thinking Allowed.
5.00 PM.
6.00 Six O'Clock News.
6.30 Dan and Nick: The Widebeast
Years.
7.00 NEWS: The Archers.
7.30 Front Row.
7.45 Postcards: On the Rocks. By
Helen Kluger. Sizzling Sydney Sachse,
fading American diva, steps out of
Hollywood into Portlough Bay. Can the
locals cope as filming begins? Or,
more to the point, can they act? With
Lorelei King and Tristan Sturrock.
Director Pauline Harris (3/5).
8.00 NEWS: Straw Poll. Justin Webb
chairs a debate on the motion: "Total
freedom of expression would be a
dangerous nightmare." From the
British Board of Film Classification
in London.
8.45 Kurtz-Eye View. Four talks in
which Kurdish journalist Hazi
Temourian reflects on his 39 years of
living in Britain. 2: "Henry I and I";
in which Hazi suffers a nervous break-
down in his adoptive country and is
advised by a Persian doctor to eat
fresh fruit and move to Reading.
9.00 NEWS: Hepatitis C. A report on
this disease which affects an estimated
500 million people but for which there
is no vaccine, no cure and little treat-
ment - a disease that could threaten
everyone's lives. See Pick of the Day.
9.30 Mothers and Sons. Six
programmes in which Times columnist
Matthew Parris and his mother,
Terry Parris, interview other mothers
and sons. 3: MP Barbara Follett

and her son Adam.
10.00 The World Tonight.
10.45 Book at Bedtime: Fame is the
Spur. By Howard Spring, read by
David Calder (3/10).
11.00 Trust Me, I'm a Policeman. In
Robert Smith's six-part drama, John
Woodvine is Detective Sergeant Matrix,
who takes a work-experience youth
on a stakeout and passes the time
with highly unreliable tales of police
work. 4: "Goldfish". The surreal tale of
robbery, disguise and an honest carp.
With David Attribus and Jan Winters.
11.30 The Mark Steel Revolution.
12.00 News.
12.30 The Late Book: The Shipping
News. (R)
12.45 Shipping Forecast.
1.00 As World Service.
1.30 World News.
5.35 Shipping Forecast.
5.40 Inshore Forecast.
5.45 Prayer for the Day.
5.47 - 6.00 Farming Today.

RADIO 4 LW
(98kHz)
9.45 - 10.00 Daily Service. 12.00 -
12.04 News: Shipping Forecast.
5.54 - 5.57 Shipping Forecast.
RADIO 5 LIVE
(693, 809kHz MW)
6.00 The Breakfast Programme.
9.00 Nicky Campbell.
12.00 The Midday News.
1.00 Rescue and Co.
4.00 News.
7.00 News Extra.
7.30 WJ Carling's World of Football.
The former England rugby union

captain discusses the future of foot-
ball with leading figures in the sport.
Call free on 0500-809693.
9.00 Proops Hoops. American
comedian Greg Proops concludes his
journey through the amazing history
of basketball.
9.30 A Tour Remembered. Later this
month, England meet Sri Lanka in a
Test Match for only the sixth time. In
the last programme of the series,
Peter Baxter recalls the first Test
encounter between the two countries
- in Colombo in 1982.
10.00 Late Night Live. With Nick
Robinson. Including a late news
briefing at 11.00; at 11.15, The Financial
World Tonight.
1.00 Up At Night.
5.00 - 6.00 Morning Reports.

CLASSIC FM
(102.0-101.9MHz FM)
6.00 Nick Bailey. 8.00 Henry Kelly.
12.00 Requests. 2.00 Concerto.
3.00 Jamie Cricht. 6.30 Newswatch.
7.00 Smooth Classics at Seven.
9.00 Evening Concert. 1.00
Michael Martin. 2.00 Concerto.
3.00 - 6.00 Mark Griffiths.
VIRGIN RADIO
(1215, 187-1250kHz MW 105.8MHz FM)
7.00 Chris Evans. 10.00 Russ
Williams. 1.00 Nick Abbot. 4.00
Robin Banks/FM only Ray Cokes from
6.45pm. 7.30 Ray Cokes. 10.00
Mark Forster. 2.00 Peter Paulson.
5.00 - 7.00 Jeremy Clark.

WORLD SERVICE
(89kHz LW)
1.00 Newswatch. 1.30 From Our Own
Correspondent. 1.45 Britain Today.
2.00 Newswatch. 2.30 Omnibus. 3.00
Newswatch. 3.30 Meridian (Books).
4.00 World News. 4.05 World Busi-
ness Report. 4.35 Sports Roundup.
4.30 - 7.00 The World Today.

TALK RADIO
6.30 Kirsty Young with Bill Overton.
9.00 Scott Chisholm. 11.00 Lorraine
Kelly. 1.00 Anna Raeburn. 3.00 Tom-
my Boyd. 5.00 Peter Dinkley. 7.00
Nick Abbot. 9.00 James Whith. 1.00
Ian Collins. 5.00 - 6.30 Early Show
with Bill Overton.

(24.037, 10.30 The Sullivan (94560).
11.00 Dales (938853). 11.55 Neighbours
(335494). 12.25 EastEnders (934483).
1.00 All Creatures Great and Small
(767821). 2.00 Dales (993476). 2.45 The
Bill (768327). 3.25 The Bill (933940).
3.55 Danglelaid (973555). 4.55 East-
Enders (938853). 5.30 Home to Roost
(767815). 6.00 All Creatures Great and
Small (767877). 7.00 2point4 Children
(767872). 7.40 Dads Army (933709).
8.20 Canned Carnot (949488). 8.40
One Foot in the Grave (767878). 9.00
Common as Muck (938853). 9.30
Canned Carnot (949488). 11.30 The Bill
(933940). 12.00 The Bill (933940). 12.30
The Comic Strip Presents... (967728). 1.05
The Comic Strip Presents... (967728). 1.30
Paul Martin - the Series (938853). 2.35 -
3.00 Shopping at Night (945695).

LIVING
1.00 TV Living (932377). 9.00 Rofunda
(944050). 9.50 Jerry Springer (934327).
10.40 Young and the Restless (938853).
11.30 Brokeback (933018). 12.00 Jimmy's
(938853). 12.35 Babylon (933018). 1.00
Rescue 911 (933940). 1.30 Ready, Steady,
Go! (944050). 2.00 Sports Centre (937730).
2.35 Living It Up! (938853). 3.25 Jerry
Springer (932377). 4.45 Timpani
(932377). 5.35 Ready, Steady, Cook!
(942704). 6.30 Jerry Springer (932377).
9.00 Sports Centre (937730). 9.30
Rescue 911 (933940). 1.30 Fish TV
(944050). 2.00 Superhouse (944953).
3.00 The Entertainers (944944). 3.30 V.
Max (944050). 4.00 Baseball (944050).
4.30 Sky Sports Centre (944953). 7.00
Fish TV (944953). 7.30 Fish TV Fishing
News (944050). 8.00 World of Super
League with Eddie and Steve (937730).
10.00 Olympic Series (932377). 11.00
The Entertainers (944953). 11.30 Close.

EUROSPORT
7.30 Football Europe (932377). 9.00
Soccer (944050). 11.00 Motorsport
(932377). 11.30 West-Share (938853). 12.00
Selling Magazine (7698). 12.30 Golf
(932377). 1.30 Tennis (932377). 2.00 Tennis
(932377). 3.30 Football Liverpool v Inter Milan
(932377). 4.45 Speedworld (932377).
5.45 Athletics (932377). 6.45 Tennis
(932377). 8.45 Cycling (932377). 11.45
Speedworld (932377). 12.30 Close.

UK GOLD
2.00 Crossroads (942223). 7.30 Neigh-
bours (938853). 7.55 EastEnders
(944050). 8.30 The Bill (942377). 9.00
The Bill (942377). 9.30 Danglelaid.

As Carlton except: 10.30 Film:
Jonathan - the Boy Nobody Wanted
(932377). 12.15 Westcountry News
(944953). 1.00 Emmerdale: Tara has
devastating news for Chris and Zoe.
Poland seeks to a new law in his war with
the EU. 1.30 Westcountry News (944953).
2.00 Westcountry News (944953). 3.00
Westcountry News (944953). 3.30
Sesame Street (944953). 4.00 Film:
Stealing Home (944953). 4.35 Cybernet
(932377). 5.00 Coach (944953). 5.30
Coronation Street (944953).

As Carlton except: 10.30 Calendar
News and Weather (932377). 1.00
Home and Away (944953). 1.30 Lunch
in the Sun (932377). 2.00 Emmerdale
(932377). 3.00 Calendar News (944953).
3.30 News and Weather (944953). 4.00
Calendar Summer Special: Join the
Calendar team for an hour of news and
entertainment from around the region
(944953). 10.30 Calendar News
(944953). 11.40 Anatomy of Disaster:
Featuring footage of a deadly cloud of
red-hot ash and gas - the pyroclastic

INDEPENDENT PURSUITS

CHESS

WILLIAM HARTSTON

MATTHEW SADLER has taken the
lead in the Smith & Williamson
British Championship in Torquay
with a good win in the seventh
round against Tony Miles. Nigel
Short was held to a draw by the 16-
year-old Indian International Mas-
ter Krishnan Sasikiran and now
shares second place. Leading
scores: Sadler 8; Short, Speelman
and Rowson 5½; Conquest, Thipsay,
Ward, Hebden, Wells, Sasikiran and
Arkell 5.

Sadler's win against Miles (who,
incidentally, won the World Junior
Championship in the year Sadler
was born) was an excellent dis-
play of controlled positional chess.
Playing White, Sadler nurtured a
space advantage from the opening,
then broke open the position to
leave his pieces better placed to
exploit weaknesses among his
opponent's pawns. Miles event-
ually wilted under the pressure
and had to lose a piece for two
pawns, after which Sadler polished
off the game efficiently.

The following game from round
three is one of the most exciting of
the event so far, with Chris Ward
once again showing that his
favourite Dragon Sicilian can still
breath fire. Black's 17...Nxd5!

looks at first sight impossible, then,
on closer inspection, possible but
outrageous. How can Black allow
White's bishop and queen to invade
g7 and h6? After 20.Rd4, White only
needed time to play Rh4 and Black
would be unable to avoid mate.
Unfortunately for him, he was
never allowed the breathing space to
do it. Black gave up a knight, then
a rook, in order to get at White's
king, which was finally unable to
defend itself.

White: David Tebb
Black: Chris Ward
British Championship 1998

1 e4 c5	18 Bxg7 Nb6
2 Nf3 d6	19 Qb6 Nxa2
3 d4 cxd4	20 Rd4 Nc3+
4 Nxd4 Nf6	21 Kd1 Qa5
5 Nc3 g5	22 bxc3 b5
6 Be3 Bg7	23 cxb3 Qxc3+
7 f3 0-0	24 Kd1 Rxb3+
8 Qd2 Ne6	25 axb3 Qxb3+
9 0-0-0 Nxd4	26 Kc1 Rc8+
10 Bxd4 Be6	27 Kd2 Rc2+
11 Kd1 Qe7	28 Ke1 Qe6+
12 Bb5 a6	29 Re4 Qa2
13 Ba4 b5	30 Kf1 Rxb2
14 Bb3 b4	31 Ke1 Rxb2
15 Nd5 Bxd5	32 Qc1 Qb2
16 exd5 Rb6	33 Kd1 Qxb3
17 Ba4 Nxd5	White resigned

BRIDGE

ALAN HIRON

SOUTH FOUND this deal full of
problems, both in the bidding and
in the play. It started simply
enough: he opened One Heart and
his partner raised to Two Hearts,
but now East intervened with
Three Diamonds, leaving South
little room to make any sort of try
below the game level. He con-
templated doubling (would this have
been for penalties?) in view of the
vulnerability but, as you can see,
this would not have been a success.
Eventually he plumped for a direct
jump to Four Hearts and all passed.

West led ♠3 against Four
Hearts and South was pleased to
see that his partner's values, such
as they were, lay in the right
places. East won and played a sec-
ond diamond. A switch would have
been better but it was just possible
that his partner had led a singleton.
Declarer ruffed and finessed ♠J at
trick three. East took his king and
belatedly tried his singleton club.
Declarer won with his ace,
crossed to ♠A, and ruffed another
diamond in hand. Then he cashed
his two top trumps and, when the
queen did not fall, followed with
♠Q. Although West could see what

was coming, there was little that he
could do and he discarded a club.
Now South ruffed his last spade on
the table and triumphantly exited
with the remaining trump to
West's queen, discarding a club
from hand. This left West on lead
with ♠Q,9 and South was able to
claim the rest.

How would you classify the
play? Reverse dummy, elimination,
and throw-in, I suppose. But very
neat, whatever you call it.

PUZZLE

- L E A -
- A T E -
- S A G -
- R U T -
- P E R -

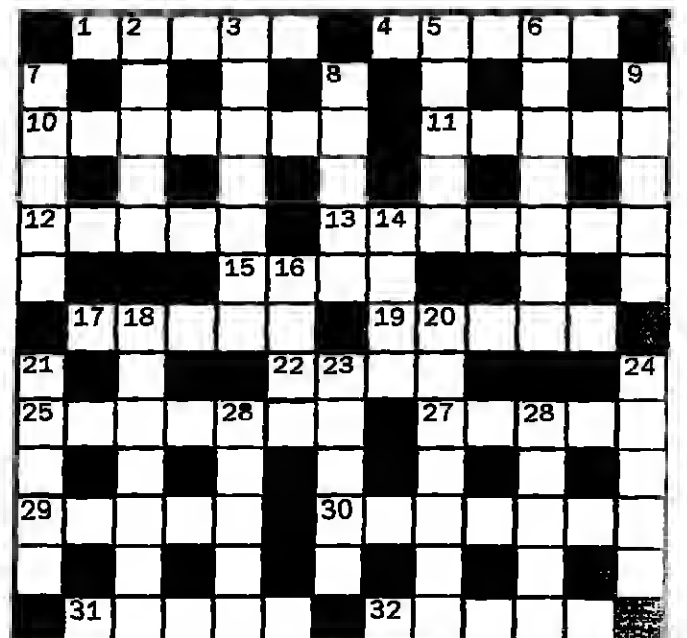
out another word, and the final let-
ters can be arranged to spell out
something of the same type as the
initial letters? (Answer tomorrow)

CAN YOU add letters at the start and
end of each of the above words to
form a new five-letter word in each
case? Of course you can. But can
you do it in a way that the initial let-
ters, in the order they occur, spell

Yesterday's answer:
Sorry, that was too easy. You fill two
cups from the fast tap while filling
one from the slow. We meant to ask
about taps that take 15 and 20 sec-
onds, which is much more fun.

CONCISE CROSSWORD

No.3681 Wednesday 5 August



ACROSS

- Garden pest (5)
- Psalmist (5)
- Financial bagger (7)
- Passage between seals (5)
- Musical drama (5)
- Casual garments (1-6)
- Comfortable home (4)
- Italian food (5)
- Decorate (5)
- Long story (4)
- Varnish (7)
- Higher (5)
- Scale (5)
- Shakespeare play (7)
- Noise made by sleeper (5)
- Oneness (5)

DOWN

- Ring (5)
- Moment (7)
- Waterlogged (5)
- Provider of cover (7)
- Berkshire racecourse (5)
- Legal documents (5)
- Unlucky (4)
- Ma deer (4)
- Simplicity (4)
- Sale (7)
- Hair to French throne (7)
- Sheep, collectively (5)
- Fire-raising (5)
- Shepherd's staff (5)
- Brown pigment (5)
- Aviator (5)

Solution to yesterday's Concise Crossword:

ACROSS: 5 State, 8 Assemblée (Status symbol), 9 Sent, 10 Juncture, 11 Strip, 14 Grit,
16 Cinema, 17 Ambly, 18 Sp, 20 White, 24 Grange, 25 Stage, 26 Avenue, 27 Band, 28 NOWA,
30 Basin, 31 Usher, 32 Smith, 4 Clog, 5 Tichman, 7 Tangle, 12 Sinker, 13 Pentagon, 14
Gin, 15 May, 19 Pariah, 21 Sneak, 22 Lease, 23 Vying.

SATELLITE TV AND CABLE

PICK OF THE DAY

THIS FAITHFUL adaptation of
the Chandler novel Farewell My
Lovely (4pm Sky Movies
Screen 2) stars Dick Powell
(right) as Philip Marlowe in an
outstanding performance that
captures the soft nuances of the
wise-cracking private detective. A
labyrinthine plot twists and turns
around Marlowe's assignment to
trace an ex-con's ex-girlfriend,
played superbly by Claire Trevor:
it's classic Chandler, classic film
noir. From the short and snappy

to the gloriously extravagant
with The Great Ziegfeld (11pm
TNT). Director Robert Leonard's
musical about the eponymous
Hollywood impresario is a
grandiose collage of show tunes
(Irving Berlin, Gershwin, Saint-
Saëns) and larger-than-life
performances. William Powell
and Luise Rainer top the bill of
this epic, which won the best
actress, film and dance-direction
Oscars back in 1936.
PETER CONNIE



Marques II: Aston Martin (996271), 12.00
First Flights (944445), 12.30 Jurassic
(766666), 1.00 Wildlife SOS (542014),
1.30 Tooth and Claw (800421), 2.30
Arthur C Clarke's Mysterious Universe
(932377), 3.00 Shipwreck (932377),
4.00 The Doctor (94721), 4.30 Top
Marques II: Aston Martin (943485), 5.00
First Flights (944445), 5.30 Jurassic
(766666), 6.00 Wildlife SOS (542014),
6.30 Tooth and Claw (800421), 7.30
Mysterious Universe (932377), 8.00 Sur-
vivors (932377), 9.00 Survivors: Survivors
(966634), 10.00 Wonders of Weather
(946512), 10.30 Wonders of Weather
(944873), 11.00 The Professionals
(947253), 12.00 First Flights (938853),
12.30 Top Marques II: Aston Martin
(977107), 1.00 Super Creeps: The Rat
among Us (226199), 2.00 Close.

SKY 1
8.00 Tattooed Teenage Alien Fighters from
Beverly Hills (5018), 8.30 Street Sharks
(94389), 9.00 Garfield and Friends (93959),
9.30 The Simpsons (932377), 10.00
Games World (942143), 10.30 Games
World (932377), 10.30 Just Kidding
(27853), 11.00 The New Adventures of
Superman (94940), 12.00 Married with
Children (94389), 12.30 M-A-S-H (94397),
12.35 The Special K Collection
(937723), 1.00 Garfield (94214), 1.55
The Special K Collection (942599), 2.00
Sally Jessy Raphael (944050), 2.35 The

Special K Collection (942599), 3.00 Jimmy
Jones (942599), 3.35 The Special K Col-
lection (937704), 4.00 The Oprah Winfrey
Show (94321), 5.00 Star Trek (938853),
5.30 The Nanny (9550), 6.30 Married with
Children (932377), 7.00 The Simpsons (2018),
7.30 Real TV (9414), 8.00 Star Trek (938853),
8.30 The Outer Limits (93301),
9.00 Caribbean Uncovered (944953),
9.30 Star Trek (944953), 10.00 Nash
Bridges (93781), 1.00 Long Play (945070).

SKY SPORTS 1
7.00 Sports Centre (944478), 7.30 World
Weekend (932377), 8.30 Sky Sports Centre
(932377), 9.30 Racing News (7014), 9.00
Aerobics (93765), 9.30 The Pavilion End
(9414), 10.30 Football (7958), 12.00 Aer-
obics (932377), 12.30 Inside Scottish Foot-
ball (932377), 1.00 The Pavilion End (9458),
2.30 Football (9478), 4.00 Wrestling
(932377), 5.00 Cricket (932377), 10.35
Tales from the Premiership Going Down,
Going Down (932377), 10.35 Sky Sports
Centre (944953), 10.45 Snooker (940582),
12.45 Sports Centre (940582), 1.00
Cricket: A-Z Live League (944953), 1.00
Sky Sports Centre (932377), 3.35 Close.

SKY SPORTS 2
12.00 Aerobics (932377), 7.30 Sky Sports
Centre (944953), 7.45 Racing News
(932377), 8.35 Fastest (7958), 8.45
Sports Centre (944953), 9.00 Fish TV
(944953), 9.30 Fish TV (944953), 10.00
Snailbots (932377), 11.00 PGA Golf
(932377), 1.00 Golf Extra (944050), 4.00

Snooker (932377), 6.00 Fish Throttle
(767878), 6.30 Winning Post (94407),
6.30 Golf Extra (932377), 11.30 European
Tour Weekly (942768), 12.00 Fish Throttle
(767878), 12.30 Sports Centre (937730),
12.45 World of Super League (944050),
2.45 - 3.00 Sports Centre (944050).

SKY SPORTS 3
12.00 World Wrestling (944050), 1.00
Fish TV (944050), 2.00 Superhouse (944953),
3.00 The Entertainers (944944), 3.30 V.
Max (944050), 4.00 Baseball (944050),
4.30 Sky Sports Centre (944953), 7.00
Fish TV (944953), 7.30 Fish TV Fishing
News (944050), 8.00 World of Super
League with Eddie and Steve (937730),
10.00 Olympic Series (932377), 11.00
The Entertainers (944953), 11.30 Close.

EUROSPORT
7.30 Football Europe (932377), 9.00
Soccer (944050), 11.00 Motorsport
(932377), 11.30 West-Share (938853), 12.00
Selling Magazine (7698), 12.30 Golf
(932377), 1.30 Tennis (932377), 2.00 Tennis
(932377), 3.30 Football Liverpool v Inter Milan
(932377), 4.45 Speedworld (932377),
5.45 Athletics (932377), 6.45 Tennis
(932377), 8.45 Cycling (932377), 11.45
Speedworld (932377), 12.30 Close.

UK GOLD
2.00 Crossroads (942223), 7.30 Neigh-
bours (938853), 7.55 EastEnders
(944050), 8.30 The Bill (942377), 9.00
The Bill (942377), 9.30 Danglelaid.

